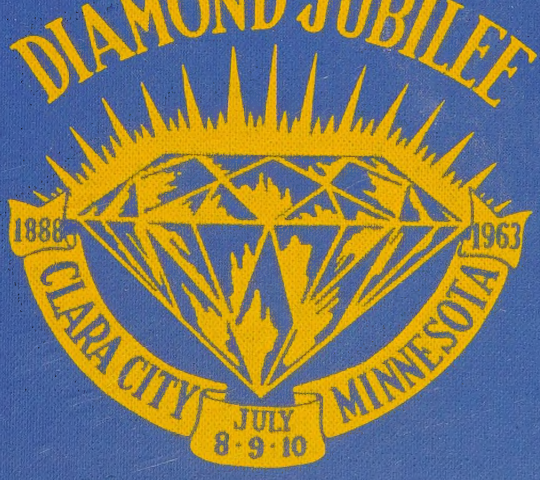
The Clara City Community Story



HOTEL.

Pearl L. Carter
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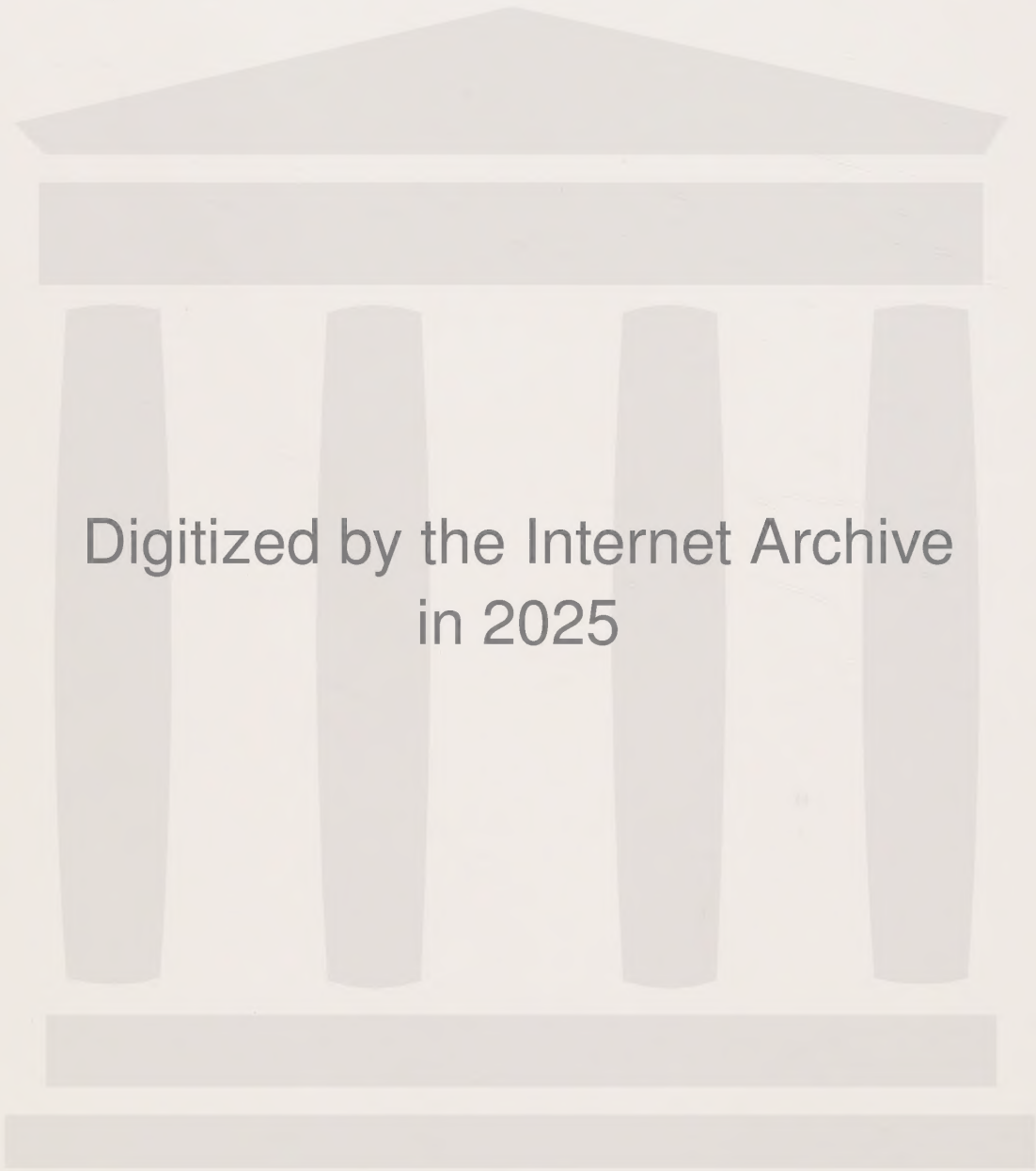
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The Clara City Community Story

A history of the Clara City community, including the townships of Crate, Lone Tree, Louriston, Rheiderland, Stoneham and Woods, and the village of Maynard.

Contents

Crate Township - - - - - - - - - - - - Page 4

Lone Tree Township - - - - - - - - - - - Page 13

Louriston Township - - - - - - - - - - - Page 21

Rheiderland Township - - - - - - - - - - Page 35

Stoneham Township - - - - - - - - - - - Page 49

Woods Township - - - - - - - - - - - - Page 57

Maynard Village - - - - - - - - - - - - Page 59

Clara City Village - - - - - - - - - - - - Page 69

FOREWORD

Cooperation and enthusiasm have certainly been the by-word in every aspect of Clara City's Diamond Jubilee program, celebration and publication of this history of our area. Never have I seen any finer spirit than that displayed by everyone in the entire Clara City community to bring about the wonderful celebration and the development of this record. The same wonderful spirit must have been displayed time after time to develop Clara City to its position of prominence it now enjoys in this area.

There is no doubt that without a great deal of cooperation and enthusiasm, the solid community and fertile farms of this area could never have been established. All of us owe much to our fathers and their fathers for their work done in making the Clara City area what it is today, but let it never be said that the people of today have not accepted their challenge and principles and carried on in the same determined way in these days of trial and, yet, bountiful opportunities.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to every one in any way connected with the Diamond Jubilee development for making it the success that it was. Speaking for all those people, we wish to thank all of you because we feel that you, too, are sharing our satisfaction and gratitude in what the Clara City community means to us. May you always be able to enjoy the benefits provided through the Clara City community area and its people.

Sincerely,

Gordon York

Diamond Jubilee General Chr.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

No worthwhile and enduring accomplishment is ever attained without the devotion, hard work and sacrifice of many people. This was true of the first settlers who founded Clara City, and of those who labored to build and make the Clara City Community the good place that it is today.

It is, therefore, fitting that this book should attempt to set down, as a permanent record, some of the history of Clara City's first 75 years. For we can only know the future by the record of the past.

The work of collecting, compiling, annotating and writing this volume has been done by many, many people. The editing, and in some cases writing, was done by Mrs. Albert Prekker Jr. (Renetta Lorz) and Mrs. Henry J. Frikke (Caroline Eddy). To them we express our sincere appreciation for their outstanding accomplishment. This history of the first 75 years will be a lasting tribute to their effort and scholarship. We are, in every sense, deeply grateful to them.

The Clara City Herald has throughout the years recorded the life of our community, climaxed by the Diamond Jubilee Edition which contained a wealth of historical material. The publishers, Mr. William Swanson and Mr. Emil Swanson, and Mrs. Emil Swanson (Margaret Rykken) are to be commended for their accomplishment and thanked sincerely for permission to use material and pictures from the paper. Their files have been open to the editors for research and their cooperation has been invaluable. The complete cooperation of the staff of the Clara City Herald has been in keeping with the finest traditions of American journalism and we express our sincere gratitude to each of them.

"The last shall be first and the first shall be last" certainly applies to all of the people of the community who so generously gave of their time and talent in the production of this history, for without them the work could not have been completed. To all of you, and there were many, we express a heartfelt THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Robert Pudd

Clara City Civic and Commerce Club

Historical Introduction

In 1671 Sieur de St. Lusson stood at Sault St. Marie and claimed all of the interior of the continent of North America for France—so—our Clara City area was first a French possession. In 1762 France secretly ceded all its territory west of the Mississippi to Spain, who in 1800 returned it, again by secret treaty, to France. In 1803 Napoleon, who needed funds to carry on his war against England, sold the region from the Mississippi to the Rockies to the United States rather than risk its coming into possession of his enemy, England. On December 20, 1803 U.S. troops moved into the "Louisiana Purchase" territory to take possession. For two years the military ruled it as an Indiana Territory. At that time a grant of 9 square miles was obtained from the Sioux Indians on which the military post of Fort Snelling was built in 1819-22. For a time from 1821 until 1834 there were no provisions for a government. From 1803 it had been a part of the Louisiana Territory and since 1812 part of the Missouri. For two years 1834-36 it was a part of the Michigan Territory and then for two more—to 1838—a part of the Wisconsin Territory. When Michigan was admitted as a State, another reorganization took place, and we became a part of Iowa Territory from 1838 to 1849 when Congress created the Minnesota Territory. Alexander Ramsey became the first territorial governor June 1, 1849 with less than 1000 people in the state. But with the excitement of the California gold and opportunities in the new states, the population in 1850 rose to 6077.

In 1851 Gov. Ramsey executed the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux acquiring the rights to this area from the Sioux Indians. In a five day meeting the tribe ceded to the U.S. all the lands claimed by them except a reservation 100 miles long and 20 miles wide on the upper Minnesota River to which they would move in two years time.

In the flush times of 1856 and 57 there grew a demand for extensive railway systems and state government. So in February 1857 an act passed Congress authorizing a constitutional convention and granting large amounts of land in aid of public schools. In March Congress approved a grant of land to aid railroads. The first survey of our area was made at this time by Deputy Surveyor William J. Anderson during the Presidency of James Buchanan. Under an old law (1841) a large number of even numbered sections in Rheiderland, Lone Tree, Stoneham and Crate, 500,000 acres, were chosen for the state for internal improvements. All sections 16 and 36 were granted to the state for school purposes. The odd numbered sections were withdrawn from entry in these townships and Louriston as railroad grants, except for a small part in the southwest corner of Stoneham. The remaining land was offered at public sale, but it was so far removed from settlement, no one offered to purchase it. So it was made subject to private entry at $1.25 to $2.50 per acre.

The first election was held at the time the state voted to ratify the constitution. The Democrats won by a narrow margin and the first legislature met for three months before the state was admitted to the Union. Many doubt the legality of action taken during this time. On May 11, 1858 Minnesota was admitted to the Union. Immediately it was in financial difficulty since the irregularity of their legislative acts before admission made it hard to secure a loan to begin business with.

A large part of the first session was devoted to railroad legislation since the lands provided for aid to railroads must be turned over to companies. The "Five Million Dollar Loan Bill" was passed to further aid them. The panic of 1857 continued and in the foreclosures on the railroad companies the state acquired 250 miles of graded road, franchises of the companies, and about 5 million acres of land as indemnity for this issue of bonds.

The political contest of 1859 was bitter and resulted in a Republican victory. It was a serious time. Civil war, then while the men were at war the Indians took advantage of the unprotected settlers and the unrest broke into the massacre of 1862.

With the war over and the Indian situation resolved, settlers once again began to move westward. The railroads, with great vigor, expanded and built 1000 miles of track in the five years from 1865 to 1870 giving work to many people. About this time land speculators began to see that the remaining land in the even numbered sections of our townships was worth buying at $1.25 an acre. George B. Wright, an old government land surveyor, was employed by Eastern capitalists to select the best for them. He rode on horseback, camping at night wherever he was. Large tracts went to an eastern syndicate, more to Samuel C. Gale and Calvin G. Goodrich of Minneapolis and Charles Bushman of Boston. Many abstracts in our area carry these names in their early entries. Because so much land was thus acquired, and so much was railroad and internal improvement land, there was very little left for homestead settlement. A few were obtained in Lone Tree and Stoneham and more in Louriston.

The railroad lands went thru a lot of handling. Granted to a company the land was likely mortgaged, foreclosed and regranted and the cycle was repeated—as many more of our abstracts show. Finally a company of which James H. Hill was president managed to stay in business and sold their holdings in Woods, Louriston, and the northeast half of Lone Tree to actual settlers. Then a syndicate managed by N. C. Frederickson and M. W. Prins, Jr. with Theodore F. Kock added later, bought land from the St. Paul and Duluth R.R. including land in Rheiderland, southwest half of Lone Tree, Stoneham and Crate.

With the Milwaukee Railroad to Montevideo in 1878, settlement in these townships was stepped up and climbed to its peak after the Duluth to Sioux Falls line reached Willmar in 1886 and our area in 1888.

Crate Township

Pictured here are: Front row—daughter, Mrs. Christina (Stager) and three of her children, Jack, Kate and Matt, Mrs. Anton Fritz, daughter Maggie (Donner), Anton Fritz, daughter Lucia (Prekker) with her son George, and John Fritz. In the back row are sons Mike, Matt, and Tony. The Irvin Klinghagens now live on this farm.

When some of our early settlers came to Crate township they found rich virgin prairie land with an abundance of grass dotted with beautiful wild flowers and practically no trees. In the spring and during a wet season there were many ponds and sloughs. In some of the lower places the water remained all through the years. There were no drainage ditches, and no roads such as we have today. People drove across the prairie and around sloughs to reach their destinations. Some came to Renville and from there drove out to the farm they chose. Others went to Kerkhoven and from there proceeded to their farms.

Swan Anderson came to Crate township in 1877 and homesteaded the farm in Section Twelve, located six miles north of Clara City on the west side of the road. There were three trees on the place when he came and he soon planted more trees so he had a nice grove in a few years. He put up the necessary buildings and dug a well. He and his family lived on that farm many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Anderson and son and Alice Anderson, (Mrs. Wm. Donner Sr.) 1901 at the Swan Anderson farm now occupied by the John Groothuis family. Note the fly nets from Veenker Bros. Housewives often made them from gunny sacks.

The Uphoff family lived one and one-half miles south of the Swan Anderson place. Minnie Uphoff was born on that farm. She married Alfred Anderson who was one of the pioneer rural mail carriers out of Clara City. Alfred was a son of Swan Anderson. In 1900 Alfred Anderson was a supervisor on the town board in Crate township.

Another early settler, Anton Fritz came to Kerkhoven and moved out to his homestead by oxen. He took a homestead one-half mile north and one mile west of the Swan Anderson home and he lived there just about as long as the Andersons. The homesteaders had to make all their improvements which was a lot of work, and then endured many hardships.

Mr Fritz took a sack of wheat on a hand sled to the mill at Appleton, Minnesota to be ground into flour and he brought back his flour on the hand sled. The trip took him three days. The weather turned very cold while he was gone so Mrs. Fritz put the siding on the house while he was away. It was cold, snowy, blustery weather.

Children had plenty to do those days. One job children were given was snaring or trapping gophers, as there were no poisons to help them rid their lands of these pests. Lucia Fritz recalls the fact that she often was curious about what these pocket gophers had in their tightly packed bulging cheeks, so the next one she trapped she was determined to find out. Imagine her surprise and delight to find a dime in with the grass and seeds in one of the pockets! You can be sure she examined each pouch after that, but was never lucky again.

Another almost daily chore of the children was herding the cattle as there were no fences around claims so animals could roam far and wide. Cattle seemed to go almost "crazy'" over buffalo bones that they would find on the prairie. They would kick up the dirt around these bones and begin chewing on them. One of Fritz's cows got one of these bones struck in her throat and seemed to be in great misery. Lucia and her younger brother, Mike, didn't know what to do as they were too far

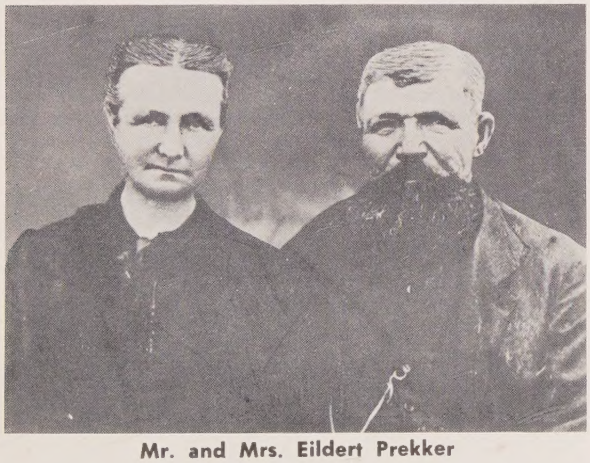
from home to drive the herd home that early in the day. Lucia reached into the cow's mouth and was able to remove the bone so the cow could go on grazing.

Snow was much more of a problem then than now as the winds could blow the snow into blizzard proportions for as long as several days at a time over those treeless prairies. One winter the snow covered the Fritz's barn and the storm was so bad they were unable to get to the barn to feed and water their animals for a couple of days. When there was a let-up they couldn't find the doorway so they had to cut a hole in the roof of the barn but the boys were afraid at first to go down to the live stock because they made so much noise and seemed almost dangerous as they crowded around that opening! We're sure those animals welcomed the daylight, water, and food again!

The children of the settlers in this community went to school in district number forty-six. At that time the school house was located a mile north and one-half mile west of its later location in the northeast corner of section fourteen. The children usually walked across the fields to school. When Maggie Fritz started school, her older brothers, who were also attending school, often carried her when it was cold and the walking was difficult through the snow.

Most people had no groves for protection so the snow used to pile around the buildings when they had blizzards. The Patrick Condon house had snow drifted against the door and over the roof so they couldn't get out of their house. The Fritzes went over there and shoveled the snow away after the blizzard. The Patrick Condons lived west of the Fritz place. They came shortly after the Fritz family came.

Anton Fritzs had four daughters: Louise who married Mike Condon, Lucia who became Mrs. Albert E. Prekker, who now lives in Clara City, Christine who was Mrs. J. B. Stager and Maggie, the youngest, who is Mrs. August Donner and resides in Gluek. The Fritz sons were: Pete, John, Mike, Matt and Tony. The Anton Fritz family later moved to Clara City.



Mr. and Mrs. Eildert Prekker

Another neighbor of Swan Anderson was Eildert Prekker who lived one mile west of Anderson's farm. A number of his children lived in the community for many years and some of them later moved to Clara City. Some, of them were Henrietta, Mrs. Mike Klaassen; Minnie, Mrs. Dick Gaasterland; Mrs. Katie (John) Gaasterland; Albert, Fred, Emil and Edward.

The Krene Janssen family came to Crate Township in 1890 and rented land from the Holland Land Company on which Siebe Aalfs had first lived. (Wayne Harguth now lives on this farm). Krene had two mules and two horses as animals with which to farm. Janssen was a blacksmith by trade but was shown how to plant and harvest wheat and barley the first year. They also put up several stacks of prairie day, not only for their own use but they put up hay for the H. M. Janssen and Ben Brummer families who were to come the following spring. They had their wheat and barley stacked but their flax was still too green to cut down.

While the family was in church on a Sunday morning a neighbor who had plowed a couple of rows of furrows around his stacks decided to burn out the ring of prairie grass between these two rows of furrows which he had plowed. In some way the fire got away from him (that was in the Zeller section now.) and burned continuously northward and wasn't stopped until it reached the railroad tracks in Kerkhoven. A pioneer farmer who could, plowed around the grain stacks. As far as could be recalled no buildings were lost but many lost all their hay and some their grain stacks. The Janssen's were unlucky enough to lose all their grain stacks and hay that first year.

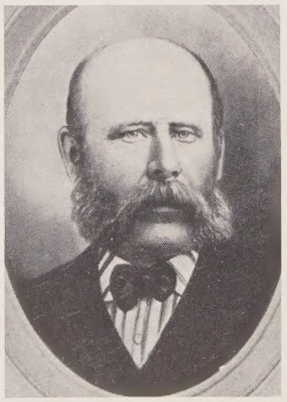
Ben Janssen recalls the fact that Luke Slagter was able to light his pipe at the edge of one of the peat bogs which continued to burn all winter. Some peat sloughs lowered two feet by the time the spring rains came and put out the fires.

The Krene Janssen's had five children: Gesine, Mrs. Martin Weers; Jake, Herman, Ben, and Eddo. Ben, the only survivor of this family lives in Clara City with his wife, the former Anna Uttermark.

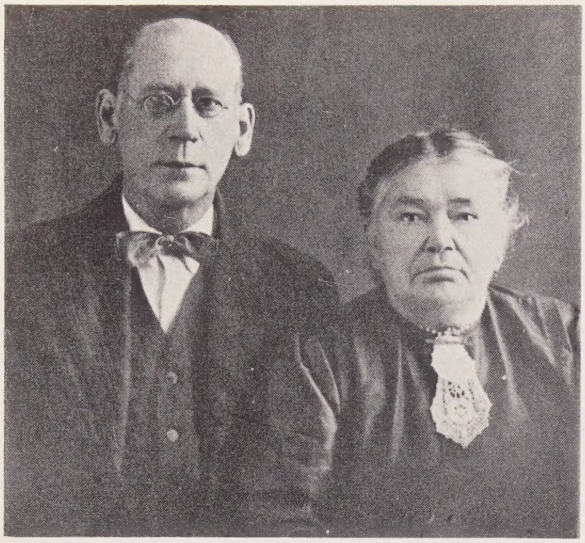
Ben recalls several incidents from way back when: His father, Krene, and sister, Gesine went to town in a home-made sled. Will Orlebeke asked Krene to help him out. The immigrants were coming so fast that Will wasn't able to find rooms for them. It was Will's job to see that these people were cared for until they could locate their land and new home. Krene took Mrs. Eilert Prekker and children, Katie, Henrietta and Ed home with him. Minnie had to stay with the Orlebeke's as there was no more room on that small sled. The next day, Eilert Prekker and son, Albert came on an immigrant train with their animals and supplies. Then Minnie came with them.

Tht first school Ben attended was located on the corner of the Doesken farm. Ed Braun was the first teacher, then Clara Kief. Maggie Glenn and Mabel Lewis, (who later became Mrs. Frank Benson), also taught in this school.

Syrup was used on school lunch sandwiches. It sold for 8c a gallon. Coffee was 8c or 9c a pound but many families couldn't afford to buy it so they roasted barley, ground it, and used in place of coffee.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jaenisch



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Jaenisch

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jaenisch, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Jaenisch came to America from Germany in 1881. Carl and Herman were brothers and their wives were sisters. They lived at New Ulm four years and at Fairfax for seven years before coming to Crate Township in 1892. They bought adjoining farms in Crate township about three and one-half miles northwest of Clara City. Herman Jaenisch bought the N½ of NE¼ of section thirty-four and Carl Jaenisch, Sr. bought the S½ of the NE¼ of section thirty-four. They farmed here. In 1900 the Herman Jaenisch family moved to Johnson, Minnesota where they made their home for many years but Carl and his family remained on his farm in Crate township.

At that time people had to pay poll taxes. The farmers used to work for their taxes instead of paying cash. They used the poll tax money to repair and build roads. Mr. Carl Jaenisch, Sr. was often the supervisor or "road boss" as they called it in those days. The township owned the hand road scrapers and some of the farmers brought their teams of horses and others brought hand equipment to do the work.

On May 17, 1909, Mr. Jaenisch suddenly passed away leaving his wife, Augusta, three daughters and five sons. Mrs. Jaenisch remained on the farm with her family and together they farmed until 1920 when she and her youngest daughter, Caroline, moved to Clara City. Her oldest son, Dan, went into business in Clara City when he was a young man, first in the barber business and later in the oil business. Her other sons, Fred, Charley, Bill and Frank, farmed in the community for many years. Her son, Bill, farmed the home farm until he retired a few years ago and moved to Clara City. Bill's son, Roger, now farms the old home farm. Mrs. Jaenisch's oldest daughter, Ida, and her husband, Steve Byram, were in the hotel business in Clara City for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hofstede, with their three children, Rolfina, Ed. and Ralph came from the Netherlands in 1887. They came as far as Renville and then drove out to Crate township in a wagon. The railroad wasn't built in this community at that time. The Hofstedes rented what is now the Harm Westendorp farm for a while and later bought the NE of section thirty-five later known as the Link farm. They lived on this place until Mr. Hofstede passed away. When Rolfina was grown up she worked for Mrs. Grashuis on the stock farm until she got married. The oldest son, Ed Hofstede, taught school in district 69 at one time.

Mr. and Mrs. George Westendorp and family

Harm Westendorp came to this community about the year 1886. He worked for Drewes Grashuis on the stock farm for several years and then started farming for himself. He rented the SW¼ of section twenty-seven for one year and then bought the W½ of section twenty-five where he lived the remainder of his life. During blinding blizzards Mr. Westendorp used a cord to get to the barn to do chores. The snow banks were so high they used to dig tunnels through them to reach the other buildings. Later years their grove offered them protection from the wind and snow. Mr. Westendorp was very careful, exact, and accurate in his dealings. He was treasurer of school district number 69 from the time he was married and he still held that office at the time of his death. Mrs. Westendorp still lives in an apartment on the farm and her son, George, and family lives on that place. Her other son, Ray, and family lives on the NW quarter of the farm.

Harm Westendorp's brother, the George Westendorp family, moved to Crate township in 1896. They farmed in Crate for a time and later moved to Clara City where they lived for many years. Their two daughters, Mrs. Reiner Reiners, and Mrs. Wm. Doesken, live in Clara City.

Mr. Jacob W. Harms was one of the early settlers in Crate. He came to this community in about 1886 and he helped build the stock farm. He and Harm Westendorp worked at the stock farm at the same time and were life-long friends. They bought their farms about the same time in Crate township. Mr. Harms had the E½ of section twenty-five and Mr. Harm Westendorp had the W½ of section twenty-five. They were neighbors for many years. Mr. Harms was interested in community affairs. He served on the town board for a number of years as supervisor and also as treasurer of Crate township. He and his wife retired in 1942 and moved to Clara City where they spent their declining years. Most of their children live in Crate. Their son, John, lives on the old home farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Kleene, Harm, Ulfert and George

Lambert Kleene came to this community about 1886. He bought the SE¼ of section thirty-five. He helped break some of the land on the farms in the community for the land company. The land company put up buildings on the farms and broke a part of the land so it would be more inviting for settlers and would sell more readily. He was one of the early members of the school board in district 69 and a charter member of the Lutheran Church in Clara City. When Mr. Kleene retired he and his wife moved to Clara City. His son, Harm, lived on the home place, until he retired and now Harms' son, Earl, is living on that farm. Lambert's son, Ulfert, farmed in Crate a number of years and moved to Clara City when he retired. Ulfert's son, Leonard, is living on that farm now. Lambert Kleene's son, George, went into business in Clara City. Other early settlers in district 69 were Joe Ertls, William Duitsmans and Fred Flaxzarths.

Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Korn

Reinhold Korn bought the NW of section twenty-seven in Crate township in 1897 and moved his family here in a covered wagon from a farm near St. Peter, Minnesota. The farm machinery and some of the household goods he shipped by railroad. He loaded a hayrack with tools and other necessary supplies they would need upon arrival in their new home. They drove their livestock, consisting of eight cows, six horses and two younger horses or colts. In the covered wagon the children rode with their mother. The clothes, bedding, some utensils and other supplies needed on the journey were packed in the covered wagon. The Korns took enough food with them to supply them for the journey. At noon they stopped traveling for an hour or more to rest the horses and to allow the livestock to graze along the roadside. During that time the family had their picnic dinner beside the road. The children enjoyed that. There were five children in the family at that time. The oldest boy, William, helped drive the cattle. For the night farmers allowed them to park in their yards. The horses were tied to the wagon and the cattle were usually put in a yard or barn. The farmers usually invited the family into their homes for the night. On their journey they saw a very large dog pumping water by a treadmill for a farmer. The children always remembered that incident. R. Korns left St. Peter September 14, 1897 and arrived in Crate township September 21, 1897.

The Hoekstra family who had worked the farm that year were still living in the buildings so the Korn family went to the vacant buildings on what was later the Henry Miller farm. Nobody had lived on the place that year so it wasn't very inviting with tall weeds growing around the place. There was an open well on that place where the water was drawn up over a pulley in buckets. After Hoekstras finished their fall work they moved away, and the R. Korn family moved on their own farm. After R. Korn completed his plowing and other fall work he drove back to St. Peter with his wagon to husk his corn on the farm he worked there. While he was away Mrs. Korn did the chores and looked after the children. After a few days she couldn't get any water out of the well when she pumped, so she went to the closest neighbor, Mr. Westendorp, for help. He repaired the pump but it went out of order several times before Mr. Korn returned and each time Mr. Westendorp willing helped out. A new cylinder was needed for the pump so as soon as Mr. Korn returned he got a cylinder for the pump. Mr. Korn was gone three weeks and returned on a snowy, blustery, Thanksgiving Day.

After Mr. and Mrs. R. Korn retired from active farming, two of their sons, William and Henry, operated the farm. William was interested in community affairs. He was a member of the school board in district 84 for some time and township assessor for many years. William lived on the old home place and after he retired and moved to Clara City his son, Robert, is operating the farm.

Henry Korn lived on the SE¼ of section twenty-seven and his son, Calvin, is farming that farm since Henry retired and moved to Clara City.

The August Gehrke family moved on the farm just south of R. Korn from Springfield, Minnesota about 1900. They lived there a number of years and then moved to a farm in Lonetree.

The neighbor one-half mile east of R. Korn was the John Visser family who came from the Netherlands to Crate township in 1892 and lived there a number of years. Later they moved to Orange City, Iowa. Two of their daughters married farmers in Crate. Jennie married Jake Harms and Annie married William Duitsman. They lived in Crate township many years.

Mr. and Mrs. John Visser

The Herman Swiers family lived in district 69 and later the Goldensteins moved into the district.

There were three groves in this immediate community in 1897; one was on the Sievert Aarnes farm, the Oscar Erickson, Sr. farm and on what is now the Theo. Ammerman farm where Herr Janssen lived at that time. His daughter's family, the Shumans, lived there a while and later Herr Janssen's son and family, the Gretus Janssens lived there for a time.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Harms

Sievert Aarnes bought a farm in Crate in the very early days. His farm bordered on what was then Willow Lake. He had a boat and used to enjoy duck hunting on the lake. Early in the morning and at sunset the settlers enjoyed hearing the call of the bobwhites and the prairie chickens. Game birds of the partridge family were common in this regions. Later the grouse came, and pheasants were introduced quite recently. Hunting and fishing were favorite sports. The Sievert Aarnes sons, John and Ole, together with the Oscar Erickson, Sr. sons, Albert, Frank, Gustave and Oscar Jr., and other boys in the community used to go hunting in the summer and fall.

Sievert Aarnes lived on his farm for many years. His sons, John and Ole, later acquired the land where they farmed many years and now Sievert's grandchildren live on that place.

The Oscar Erickson, Sr. family lived on the NE¼ of section twenty. They were a large family and were very musical. All the boys played the violin. They had an organ. Often in the evening the evening the neighbors would gather there and spend the evening playing their instruments, singing and visiting. Mr. Crate Beasley used to bring his flute and play with them. Sometimes his daughter, Flossie, played the organ and yodeled.

Another community amusement was playing baseball and horseshoe in summer. In winter the young folks went skating and had sleigh riding parties.

Mr. and Mrs. Crate Beasley

Mr. Crate Beasley was one of the very early settlers in Crate. He homesteaded the NE¼ of section four. He was a Civil War veteran and marched with General Sherman's army to the sea. He was interested in community affairs. Crate township was named in his honor. When Mr. Beasley retired he moved to Clara City. His son, Floy, lived on the farm for a while and at present is living in Willmar.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Donner and family, Bill, Marie, August, Annie, Paul, Ella, Rosie and Charles

The Frederick Donner family settled here some time in the eighteen nineties. They came from near St. Peter, Minnesota and lived in the community for some time and later moved up north. His son, William, had a photograph studio and jewelry store in Clara City for many years. His son August worked in stores in Clara City, and 1934 had his own store in Gluek. August's son, Francis, known as "Bud," is now running that store. Frederick Donner's daughter, Marie, worked in a store in Clara City until she married Abe Orlebeke of Clara City and moved out of the community.

The Henry Krommen family came to Crate in 1895 and lived on a farm five miles northwest of Clara City which is now the Casper Marso farm. Krommens moved to Clara City in 1908. Their daughter, Susan, married Andrew Harguth and lived on a farm near Gluek. Their daughter, Gertrude, married Mr. P. J. Thein and lives in Clara City.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Brunkow's wedding. Charles Viergutz, Lena Kruger, Mr. and Mrs. Brunkow, William Viergutz, Ida Kruger.

Charlie Brunkow and family came to this community about 1900. They first lived on the farm vacated by Frederick Donners and then moved on their own farm which was their home for many years. Their daughter, the Carl Jaenisch family, now lives on that farm.

Wenzil and Paul Schoen were brothers who bought adjoining farms in Crate and moved their families here about 1902. Wenzil was on the school board in district 84 for a number of years. Now two of Wenzil's sons, Joe and Edward, live on the home place. John Miller, son of the late Emil Miller, who was also an early settler in Crate now lives on what used to be the Paul Schoen farm. Philip Zellers were quite early settlers here. His son, John, now lives on that farm. Other early settlers were the Bensons, P. A. Sandersons, Ed Harkers, Peter Schaacks, John Weilands, Guesregens, X. Suters, Klaassens, Peter and Anthony Thomas, and others. Anthony Thoma was on the town board a long time.

When the pioneers came there were many sloughs which hindered farmers from cultivating all their land and created a great deal of waste. As early as 1907 they started ditching in Crate. County ditch No. 11 was that year. In 1918 a big system, County ditch No. 22 was started. Now there are so many as ten parts of county ditch systems in Crate township. A great deal of tiling has been done so many farms are well drained. In early days there were many muskrats in the sloughs and a great deal of trapping was done. There were other wild animals, weasels, minks, skunks, badgers, foxes, and rabbits.

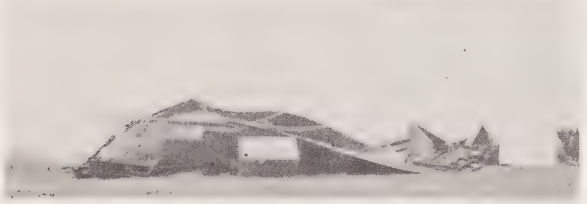
Farming has changed considerably since the early days. It has become more specialized. They have a county agent with an office in Montevideo to give them advice to help them solve their problems. The first full time county agent was Mr. Stanley Doten who was employed in 1937. Farmers now plant hybrid seed corn instead of picking their seed from their fields as they used to do. The seed for other crops have been greatly improved also. Many acres of soy beans are raised, a crop not planted in pioneer days. Alfalfa is another crop that is raised extensively and the varieties have been greatly improved over the years. Sugar beets are another crop now grown here. Farmers use commercial fertilizer which was unheard of in pioneer days. They greatly increase their yield by so doing, and are replenishing the soil with some of the depleted minerals.

The method of harvesting the grain has changed a great deal. Farmers used to cut their grain with horse-drawn binders, then shock it, and stack it, and thresh it later. They used a steam engine to run the grain separator. Early years they burned straw to get steam, later they burned coal. They had a water tank to haul water which they generally pumped from some nearby slough. Tractors replaced the steam engine later. Sometimes several neighbors would work together and "shock thresh." This would eliminate stacking the grain. Later combines came into use which has greatly simplified harvesting. It takes only two men to harvest with a combine—one man to run the combine and one to haul the grain. It used to take from ten to sixteen men or more to do the threshing. That was always a busy time for the women. They cooked three meals and two lunches a day for the threshers. Later when they "shock threshed" they generally gave the threshers two lunches and dinner. The farmers usually went home for their suppers and they had their breakfast before they came to thresh. Some of the early threshers in Crate were: Henry Straus, Gene Thein, Peter Thein, and Mike Klaassen. Later several neighbors bought machines and

Threshing on the Paul Schoen farm, now owned by John Miller. John Tomes on the tank wagon, Rudy Peters, engineer, Joe Eisenreich, fireman, Willard Schoen, Clara Schoen (Mrs. Emil Prekker), Frank Schoen, Harry Schoen, Charlie Jaenisch, Charlie Peters, Ulfert Kleene, Kasjen Neimeyer, unknown.

threshed together. The Jaenisches, Kleenes, Korns, George Klaassen, Luck Brothers and many others, had machines.

The poultry industry has been greatly revolutionized. In early days each farmer had a few chickens which were raised by setting hens. They usually fed them whole oats, a little wheat or screenings and corn and of course had no lights in the chicken house. Later some farmers used incubators but now they buy their chicks from large hatcheries. They have hybrid chicks that are sexed at the hatcheries so most folks buy pullets. Some folks raise broilers. Folks who sell quality eggs usually have large flocks of laying hens—a thousand or more—and gather the eggs several times a day. They keep the eggs in an electric cooler until they are marketed. Trucks come to the farms two or three times a week to pick up the eggs and then they are sent to markets. Farmers get higher prices for quality eggs.



The R. Korn's barn after the 1911 cyclone

Winter 1936—Bobby Korn and Jack Eklo

Different parts of Crate have been visited by heavy snows, wind storms, hail, cyclones and tornadoes at various times. In 1911 a cyclone struck a wide area and blew down a number of barns and other buildings in the community. School house in district number 69 was scattered over the fields as far as one-half mile away. It was a total loss and a new building was erected by fall for the opening of school. That same cyclone took the school house in district number 60. At another time a tornado picked up the school house in district number 60 and set it down across the road from its original location without disturbing anything in the building nor destroying any part of it. District No. 3 and everything in it was exactly as it had been except that it was on the opposite side of the lot. Different parts of the township have been struck by hail, sometimes causing total damage to crops and sometimes doing only slight damage.

On July 17, 1957, we had an extremely heavy rainfall in this vicinity.

It started raining in the morning like an ordinary shower and continued through the day. By evening it was raining quite heavily. By midnight the water was coming down in torrents. Many roads were flooded and by morning many culverts were washed out. All the low places in the fields were covered with water. By daylight the rains had stopped. The countryside looked like a chain of lakes. Basements were flooded and a lot of crop damage as well as other damage was done.

Crate township had six school districts, No's. 3, 46, 57, 60, 69 and 84. Now only one of these schools remains open, District 57, which goes by a different number since school district reorganization began. District 57 opened in 1888. John Murphy, Crate Beasley, and Andrew Bengstrom were on the school board. The teacher was Ida Records from Kerkhoven. Her salary was $30 per month and there were 13 pupils enrolled.

In 1889-1890 the first term of school was taught in District 60 by Miss Minnie Glynn. There were 23 pupils enrolled. There was no school building so they had school in Mr. Hawkinson's granary. The seats were benches without backs. There were no desks and they had one small blackboard. The term was short—from May 27th to June 27th. Preparations were made for the erection of a schoolhouse. The school board members were Gustave Erickson, Christian Hawkinson, and S. O. Arnes.

In 1893-94 District 69 was organized. Krene Janssen was the first director. The school term was five months long. Miss Josie Murphy, the first teacher, received $25 per month and paid $4 a month for board and room. Pencil sharpeners were unheard of in those days so the teacher, or one of the older boys usually carried a pocket knife and sharpened all the pencils for the school children. Ben Janssen says he remembers that Fred Jaenisch sharpened many a pencil with his teeth! Some children had slates and slate pencils for writing instead of lead pencils and paper. There were no books for the pupils to use that first year, or two, so Miss Murphy wrote the lesson on the blackboard. The 42 pupils copied that lesson on their slates and papers and studied from that.

About 1894-1895 the Joe Ertl family moved into the district. Mr. Ertl, being very interested in education, was instrumental in getting the first free text books for the school. He also taught in District 69. Later he served on the board of District 84.

Some of the other teachers in district 69 are: Edith Lasher, Minnie Fish, Mae Boonstrom, Helen Erlandson, Minnie Huseby, Esther Dahleen, Alita Dahleen, Beth Brennan, Minnie Luitjens, Marie Schroeder, Mae Tibbets, Greta Kuiper, Christine Jorgenson, Trientje Gerdes, Mae Syde, Eunice Donner, Gladys Gerghuis and Mary Jahn.

In 1911 a tornado destroyed the school building but it left the teacher's chair and the old organ with the large mirror untouched!

The following report was taken from the county records concerning District 46. The district held a spring term of two months in 1887 with Lillian Knight of Montevideo teaching 16 children. The county superintendent's notes tell of the poor location of the school on the open prairie. In the fall when Sibbie Molsted taught a two month term again the superintendent made note of the smallness of the building and that it was cold. The students were Germans, Swedes, and Americans, with prospects that settlers may come in the spring. Spring of 1888 brought Mr. J. O'Kiefe to teach 20 pupils who were "foreigners and do not understand the English language." Directors and or board members at this time were Edwin Brown, Edwin Brown, Jr., and Herman Schrotenboer.

Some of the other teachers who taught in Dist. 46 are: Margaret Trainor, Ed Harker, Blanche Jahn, Anna Kirkeboe, Lydia Hawkinson, Minnie Luitjens, Miss Christians, Ida Grunke, Nettie Lorz, Leona Charlet, Elizabeth Schmoker, Esther Moose and Mae Brunkow and Delores Klaassen.

This picture of the pupils in District 46 was taken in 1897. These are not listed in the correct order. Mrs. Pete Martin, teacher. Pupils are: Minnie Bittner, Joe Fried, Sophie Fried, Anna Fried, August Fried, Willie Fried, Anthony Fritz, Maggie Fritz, Jennie Guszregen, Emma Guszregen, Christ Guszregen, Ada Marks, Edward Prekker, Emil Prekker, Rudolph Peters, Charley Peters, Martha Peters, Anna Stroklund, Amy Stroklund, Lizzie Stroklund, Alice Stroklund, Mary Stroklund, and Katie Woltcher. Johnny Stager is missing as he was sick with measles.

District 3 was the first district to be formed in Chippewa County by the county board on June 8, 1869. The school was built in 1900. The cost of the material for the building was $110.00. The labor was free, as the men of the district put it up. The district was bonded for $400 and the people wondered how they would ever be able to pay it. In 1911 they had just paid off the bond when a tornado picked up the school building and moved it about 100 feet. Evidently it must not have been damaged too much as it was moved back to its original plot. The first school board members were: Andrew Benson, Peter Becker, and Peter Biesel. The first teacher was paid $35 per month. The first teacher that can be remembered was Christine Loe and that was in 1904. There were as many as 30 pupils attending a term of school in this district. Some of the other teachers who taught here were: Anne Buckley, Fred Nash, Louise Wick, Minnie Fish, Rossie Kleven, Verna Dahlberg, Clara Sandahl, Hulda Nelson, Tillie Krantz, Ellen Johnson, Edith Watson, Edith Johnson Huseby, Mathilda Horney Brown, Mae Syde Bronkow, Rachel Arends Tammen, Cleo Russell, Thea Sletkolen Stay, Blanche Jerve Dozler, Grace Cronen Dirksen. The last teacher that taught here was Marcelon Strickler Athey. She had 7 pupils in the year 1943. Then the pupils were transported to Maynard. In 1953 District 3 consolidated with Maynard. The last school board members were: Albert Suter, Peter Thoma and Herbert Speiser. About a year after they consolidated the school building was sold to Albert Suter and moved to his farm where it stands today. The one acre of land on which the buildings stood was sold to Fred Jaenisch.

Snapshots of District 3

A special meeting of District 84 was held in the Charles Brunkow house on the 16th day of November 1903 at 7 o'clock p. m. Charles Viergutz was chosen moderator, and Joseph Ertl served as clerk. The following officers were elected by ballot: Joseph Ertl, Clerk; Charles Brunkow, Treasurer; and Reinhold Korn, Director.

Twenty-three votes were cast on the schoolhouse site. The voters accepted the offer of Charles Brunkow's one acre of ground free of charge in the NW corner of Section 22. The main building was to be 20'x30' and 12 feet high. The entry hall was to be 10'x12' and 8' high. It was all to be plastered with hard plaster. It was also voted to have five months term of school.

They held a special meeting January 16, 1904 and voted in favor of borrowing $900 from the state school fund on ten years time.

Signed by Joseph Ertl, Clerk.

The following are records of transactions by the trustees of District 84:

Obtained deed for schoolhouse site.

Bought lumber for schoolhouse, $315.00.

Bought stone for same from A. Erickson, $6.00.

6 loads of sand from Crate Beasley, $1.50.

Hired Chas. Viergutz to build schoolhouse, outhouses and coal shed for, $108.00.

To Fred Harguth for foundation and plastering, $60.00.

Bought stove for schoolhouse, $20.00.

Hardware for schoolhouse, $20.00.

School furniture for the sum of $116.00.

Bought school books, $60.00.

Insured buildings and contents for $710.00.

Initial fee for policy on same, $3.13.

Insurance expires the 4th day of January, 1909.

Made contract with the American Book Company for a term of 5 years on free text books.

Lumber for coal shed, $35.50.

Loan from state fund, $800.00, at the rate of 4% and payable at the rate of $100.00 per year, first payment to come due in the year 1909.

Engaged L. A. Thieling, painter at Clara City, to paint schoolhouse for the sum of $30.00.

The best paint obtainable to be furnished by said Thieling and the work guaranteed. Bids having been advertised for painting all buildings outside and the schoolhouse inside, the lowest bid of a professional painter has been accepted.

A petition from S. O. Aarnes, John Aarnes, and Peter Schaack to have their lands set aside from District 84 to District 60 was accepted.

A bid from Nick Krommen for $4 was accepted for plowing and seeding down school grounds. Another bid from Nick Krommen for hauling all wood and coal for the school year 1903-04 for the sum of $6.50 was accepted.

Front row, left to right: Linda Brunkow, Grace Tomes, Rose Schoen, Margaret Biel, Joe Shoen, Eithel Brunkow. Back row: Leila Brunkow, George Beckman, Paul Schoen, Engelbert Biel, George Schoen, Frank Biel, with their teacher.

The school opened for the first time on February 8, 1904 with Blanche Jahn as teacher. They had 5 months of school that year. The following pupils were enrolled: Willie Fried, Mary Krommen, Gertrude Krommen, Lizzie Ertl, Lydia Ertl, Ida Ertl, Alice Korn, Louis Korn, Lydia Korn, Bertha Korn, William Korn, Bianca Brunkow, Leila Brunkow, Josie Dieken, Joe Klaassen, Jennie Klaassen, Aloysius Heineger, Lizzie Heineger, Florence Schoen, Clara Schoen, Ella Gehrke, Tillie Gehrke, Hannah Gehrke and Louisa Gehrke.

The following picture taken in 1913 shows the pupils in District 84, then: Back row, left to right: Fred Teichert, Theodore Speiser, Eitel Brunkow, Joe Schoen, Herbert Speiser, George Schoen, George Beckman, Henry Korn, Evan Hartlep, Leila Brunkof, Meta Brunkow, Florence Korn, Pearl Hartlep, Rose Schoen, Linda Brunkow, Grace Tomes, Marie Hartlep, Severa Brunkow. Front row, Carl Brunkow, Edward Schoen, Fred Speiser.

Minni Luitjens, Anna Westendorp, Alice Korn, Lydia Korn

It isn't often that one can get a good picture of a group of teachers who began teaching in this community before 1920. We are fortunate to be able to include this one of the following girls: Minnie Luitjens, Anna Westendorp, Alice Korn, and Lydia Korn.

Minnie Luitjens was the eldest of four children in the Christian Luitjens family. She worked for her room and board in Clara City, as did many other country children in those days if they wanted a higher education. At that time Clara City offered only 2 years of high school so Minnie attended Windom Institute in Montevideo and later graduated from one of our state teachers colleges.

She spent most of her teaching career teaching in various schools in Crate township. She was a conscientious teacher and also took a great deal of interest in her church. She taught Sunday School in Immanuel Lutheran Church for a number of years. She met with a tragic death by an explosion caused by using kerosene to start a fire in a stove in her home. At that time she was teaching in District 60.

Anna, Alice, and Lydia are no longer teaching but are active in their respective church and community affairs.

Extension Homemaker's programs are carried out through a home agent who has her office located in the courthouse in Montevideo. Chippewa Extension Homemakers groups were started in 1945. Crate Township has three active groups. Women of a wide difference in age, experience and interests, spend a part of a day a month together learning, exchanging ideas, and doing worthwhile projects. It also adds to the social life in the community.

The 4-H Club work was probably the first extension work undertaken in the county. A Crate 4-H Club was organized in 1947-48. The Crate "Hi Lites" are still active.

Gluek Co-op Elevator Board, 1930—(l. to r.): Harm Boike, Ed Gehner, Frank Rhode (deceased), Wm. Luschen, Maurice Mills, Art Smith.

In August of 1927 the rails were laid from Lake Lillian to what is now Gluek (or Wesota). Part of the town is built on the Gayken farm and part on the John and Chris Van Heel farms. The elevator and a lumber yard were built in the fall of 1927. The Victoria Elevator Company built the elevator and sold it to the farmers. It is now known as the Gluek Co-op Elevator. The lumber yard was built by McGregor and Olson from Maynard and was managed by Cornelius Essen for many years. Otto Herrlick put up a bulk oil station and also a house in 1927. Cargill purchased the oil station in 1942 from John Schroeder, who had bought it from Otto Herrlick a few years before. Edmund Horney had an oil station in the south part of Gluek for a while.

Olson Brothers had the first grocery and general store in Gluek. Tony and Matt Van Heel had a restaurant which they later converted into a store. August Donner purchased that store after selling the store he had in Louriston. Now August's son, Francis, is operating it. He has charge of the Gluek post office also. John Arends operates a machine shop, and Raymond Bodine has a cafe there. Because materials were hard to get during World War II, Cargill, Inc., purchased an elevator from Walter Hess in Maynard and moved it to Gluek. Before it could be put on a foundation a cyclone caused it to be tipped over, breaking it into two parts so it had to be taken apart and rebuilt. It began operation in 1943 with a capacity of about 20,000 bushels. An annex was built which had a capacity of a half million bushels. In 1950 a concrete elevator was built near the old one. A wholesale and retail feed store or warehouse was put up that same year.

In 1952 the annex and the old elevator burned. Rebuilding began in 1953, but much larger, with a million bushel capacity. Feed storage facilities of 150 ton capacity was added in 1957. Now the plant can manufacture and produce 120 tons of pelleted feed per day. The total capacity of bulk feeds is 500 tons at present. Cargill, Inc., started with two employees but now has eighteen men working. Maurice Kelley is the present manager. Cargill, Inc. owns four houses in Gluek. Gluek is a thriving little community of about 15 families. They have some nice comfortable homes with well kept yards and beautiful trees.

Early town board members in Crate township were: John B. Stager, Sr., clerk; Hubert Schaack and Alfred Anderson, supervisors in 1900. In 1894 they were John B. Stager, Sr., clerk. Supervisors were: Hubert Schaack, John Weiland and Peter Schaack.

Lone Tree Township

On July 16, 1878 the Board of County Commissioners of Chippewa County set apart Lone Tree as a civil township. It is said to have taken its name from the lone tree in the township. Research proves there were two lone trees, one on the edge of Bad Water Lake near Raymond on the eastern edge of the township in Section 23, the other on the line between sections 17 and 18. Each has been certified by those now living as THE lone tree. Which inspired our founding fathers we can only surmise.

For some years, Mr. J. M. Cofield who had settled near Bad Water Lake in section 24 had been the only resident. The first town meeting was held in his home on August 7, 1878. This farm is now occupied by the Gerken brothers.

John W. Lindner and Dennis Day homesteaded land in section 22 and Frank Chestek and Allen Day took land in section 26. In the northwest part of the township Theodore W. Kiethly took land in section 8. Mr. Kiethly was town clerk and the early records were burned with his home Nov. 25, 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Bror Asping homesteaded in section 6 in 1884, having come from Vesterjotland, Sweden the year before. They lived in a one room house with a small shanty to it which could not be used in the winter. In this one room they had a stove, in which they burned twisted hay, a table and chairs, and three wooden beds the father had made. The beds had board bottoms with ticks stuffed with clean straw each season. The eats were mostly mush. The mother spent the long winter

Mr. and Mrs. Bror Asping

evenings carding and spinning wool which she knit into stockings and mittens while humming hymns. A daughter, Mrs. Anton Olson of Clara City has this spinning wheel. Since there were no churches at the time, Sunday services were held in homes and school houses and the Aspings often walked several miles to attend. At one time when Mr. Asping had gone to get wheat ground to flour a prairie fire threatened the home. Only the quick action of a neighbor in plowing a strip about the buildings saved them from destruction. Mr. Asping passed away in 1902 leaving the mother with seven children. With the help of her oldest son, Carl, she

managed to stay on the farm. The other children, all deceased but two, were Herbert, Hilda, Thyra (Mrs. Otto Johnson of Clara City), Tillie (Mrs. Anton Olson of Clara City), Alfred and Engvald. Alfred was called to the service of his country Sept. 19, 1917. At Fort Des Moines, Iowa he became ill, contracted pneumonia and died Nov. 11, 1918. Engvald enlisted in 42 Co. 20th Engineers on Feb. 28, 1918. He went overseas April 2, 1918 where he served until June 18, 1919 when he was honorably discharged. He found work with a steam shovel and met his death while moving it. He volunteered to lift telephone wires and accidentally contacted an electric wire Sept. 25, 1925. The Asping farm is now occupied by the Fred DeGrote family. John H. Camp, a retired St. Paul merchant, bought large tracts of land in this township but made no settlement so places were few and far between.

William Chestek, a son of Frank and Fannie Chestek was the first person whose death was recorded in the new township, on January 18, 1879. That same year the first child was born, a son, Richard Albert, to John and Josephine Lucas on February 15.

Nanne Fokken bought the farm now owned by Robert M. and Verna (Grussing) Gerdes since 1930. He brought his family from Iowa in 1887 and here he and his wife lived out their days. One of their children still lives, Meinert, of Maynard who is 83. The others were Jantje, Mrs. Heye Jurgena; Jennie, Mrs. George W. Ammerman; Gertie, Mrs. Fred W. Ammerman; and Hilka, Mrs. E. J. Peterson.

Coming from Iowa about the same time was the Henry Scheltens family who settled close by on the farm now occupied by Harry Hoogeveens. The children were Louise, Emma (Mrs. Bill Orlebeke), Henry, Cornelius, Charles, George, Albertus, Pete and John J. Pete purchased an adjoining farm and reared his family, Martha (Mrs. Clayton Habstritt), Charles, Grace (Mrs. Larry Schuler) deceased, Verna (Mrs. Larry Schuler), Henry, John, Bert and Pete. John J. Sheltens when a young man took several girls to Montevideo to take the tests to become teachers. To pass the time he decided to take the test too. He passed and subsequently taught three terms in Dist. 70 before marrying Grietje Peterson. On the home place they lived and brought up their family until 1950 when they retired to Raymond, where Mrs. Scheltens still lives. Besides John J. who passed away in 1963 and his daughter Henrietta who died during the flu epidemic in 1918, an infant son and Louise (Mrs. Harry Brouwer) are deceased. Louise's children, Joanne and Bruno were cared for by their grandparents after their mother's death. The other children are Elizabeth (Mrs. John Buss of Everett, Wash.), Emma (Mrs. Herman Meyer Jr.), Grietje (Mrs. Herman Ulferts) and Mabel (Mrs. Dick T. Marcus).

First row—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Steffen (seated). Back row—Anna Keller, Lucinda Meinerts, Adolph Steffen, Emma Greenfield, Henry Steffen, Minerva Teeple, and Albert Steffen.

Henry Steffens and his wife Christina and their ten children, Adolph, Anna, Frank, Henry, Emma, Louisa, Minerva, Lucinda, Cora and Albert, arrived from Grundy County, Iowa in September 1887. They made the trip in a covered wagon. They settled near the Fokkens and Scheltens in section 36 where the John Ruschen family now live.

Mr. and Mrs. George Doesken. The first marriage in Lone Tree, March 5, 1890.

In 1890 when the first census was taken there were 185 inhabitants in Lone Tree. Ten years later there were 504 so this was a period of rapid settlement. March 5, 1890 saw the first marriage in the township when Hilda Luitjens and George Doesken were married. George came to Lone Tree from Iowa in 1888 to make improvements on a 200 acre farm his father bought in section 28. In 1891 Edo Doesken moved his family to this farm. Today it is owned by another son, William Doesken and occupied by his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Young.

Hilda Luitjens was the oldest daughter of the Henry Luitjens who had come here from Iowa in covered wagons with two other families, the Klinghagens and Van Horns who settled in Rheiderland township. Actually they walked most of the way.

The other children were Etta (Mrs. White of Calif.), Anna (Mrs. Bill Bailey), Nettie (Mrs. Jake Haima) of Raymond. John is her son, Ralph who went to Arizona, Henry who had a restaurant in Clara City, then in Raymond, and Hannah (Mrs. James Borte) whose husband was killed when robbers held up their grocery store in Minneapolis.

The Holland Co. owned a large stock farm on section 31. Drewes Grashuis managed this farm which is the one now owned by Walter and John Tammen and their sisters Jennie Krueger, Anna Hartzell, and Walter Krueger. Mr. Grashuis was a good neighbor, an educated, well informed man who was always willing to help his newcomer neighbors with good sound advice as well as in practical ways. He later became the president of the German American Bank of Clara City, which is now the Citizens State Bank.

A postoffice was established in Lone Tree at Rosslyn with William Ross the first postmaster, William Ross' farm is the one which Harm Duitsman owns in section 30.

Among the early settlers in section 18 was William Rutherford whose sons George and James

Typical home in 1896—the house was built in 1890. The Edo Doesken family. Left to right— Susie Bauman, Ed., Dena Behrends, Henry, Mrs. Edo Doesken, Katei Link, Edo, William, Ben, and John.

later occupied the farm. He also took a tree claim in the same section. A tree claim called for trees to be planted on a certain amount of land but no number was specified. Some settlers of this type planted very sparingly. But Mr. Rutherford planted a fine grove that grew to be the pride of the neighborhood. Many early 4th of July celebrations, Sunday School picnics and other celebrations and gatherings were held here. Charles Lindbergh Sr., father of the famous aviator came to a meeting once seeking re-election—for what we can't remember.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Fleuter

In 1894 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Fleuter bought land near the Rutherfords where they farmed for 35 years before retiring to live in Raymond. Two sons, Fred and Richard, and a daughter, Hedwig, still live there. Elsie (Mrs. Fred Wagner) and Otto live in Raymond, Anna (Mrs. Adolph Otto in Clara City and Alma (Mrs. Erick Woolschlager) in Montevideo. It is interesting to note how many of the farms have remained in the same family down through the years. Besides the Doeskens and Fleuters already mentioned August Lepler owns the farm his grandfather, John Lepler, bought in section 23. Lammert Gerdes' land in section 30 is occupied by a granddaughter and her family, the Leslie Prekkers. Alexius Thissen, Aloyius Thissen and the Leo Thissen families and Anna Thissen and her family all own land of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Thissen. Incidentally, only one other child of that family still lives, Theodore Thissen of Grand Rapids, Minn. Anton Thissen's land in section 16 is owned by his son, Paul. Mr. and Mrs. Harm Ostendorf live on land in section 27 where her parents Mr. and Mrs. Harm Van Heuveln had settled. Grandsons Clarence and Harold Beckman live on another part of the Van Heuveln farm. Charles Buss now owns his grandfather Gerrelt Buss' farm in section 36. Otto Sell's land in section 8 is owned by his son, William Sell. The Sell girls settled in the township too, Alvina (Mrs. Lambert Du Houx), Alma (Mrs. Frank Mann), Hazel (Mrs. Ed Essendrop) and Mabel (Mrs. George Dethlef) deceased. Reuben Henslin lives on his father Chris Henslin's farm. Mrs. Pete Scheltens lives on the farm her husband bought in section 25. Jerry Sechler and his family live on the farm of his father, Henry Sechler.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Reiners on their Silver Wedding Anniversary. John Gerdes' International.

Of course there are many farms that have changed hands too. Dr. Robert Merrill bought W. F. Reiners farm and the Edward Brouwer family live there. The Wallrich F. Reiners bought the

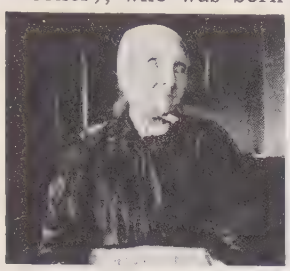
1901 International car and the John Thissen family. Left to right—Mrs. John Thissen, Leo on her lap, Ralph, Annie, Ignatius, John Thissen, Fred, Albertus.

farm in 1892 when they came here from Illinois. Mr. Reiners was born in Eastfriesland Germany in 1860 and came to this country with his parents in 1869. In 1885 he married Anke Valentine. Their home for the first few months here was a small combination granary-barn building. On the 3rd of May, 1892 Mr. Reiners had the chilling night time experience of running in his underwear after blowing, tumbling, grain sacks as a sudden rain-snowstorm swept them over the open prairie. Grain sacks were hard to come by in those days. Thirteen children were born to them. Hands were many and Mr. Reiners spent many evenings knitting mittens while Mrs. Reiners worked on underwear and stockings to cover the rest of them. On April 6, 1910 their celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary. In the afternoon Mr. Emil Yock came out with his brand new white Buick and gave people rides in it. They had their picture taken in the sporty International car of Mr. John Gerdes. That evening the Clara City Brass Band came out and serenaded them! In the fall of 1917 their son, Henry was called into the army and served until he was discharged late in 1918. He died some years later as a result of burns he received trying to help his daughter, Verna, after their fuel oil stove exploded. In 1920 the Reiners moved into Clara City where in 1935 they celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary. Mrs. Reiners passed away the next August. Mr. Reiners lived until December 1943 when he quietly passed away as he sat in his rocking chair. Only three of their children now live: Kate (Mrs. Henry Broers), Lizzy (Mrs. George F. Gerdes) of Maynard and John of Clara City. The Reiners were faithful members of the Lutheran church. She worked in the Ladies Aid and he held several church offices for 25 years.

Martin Behrends sold his farm in section 30 to George Krueger whose son Harold lives on it. Egbert U. Brouwer recently bought the Fred Thissen farm in section 15. William and Ed Dethlef rented their father, John Lethlef's farm to William Fokken for years. It has now been sold to John Meyer. Charles Buss bought the William Salzman land in section 32 and 33 and Henry Luitjens sold his to Frank Gerdes. Mrs. Harry Gerdes now owns part of it. Mrs. Opal Holmgren and boys occupy it. Ulfert Ulferts bought the Herman Schamp farm in section 22. The Schamp oxen are well remembered, and also the progress Mrs. Schamp made with her knitting on the slow tedious journey to town by ox team. The farm now occupied by Alan Johnson was once the site of a cheese factory owned by John Carey—section 10. Located on a hill, it was an early postoffice also, called the Hill postoffice. It was here the mail carriers stayed overnight on their trips between Willmar and Montevideo.

The Herman Beisterfeldt farm is now owned by Ed Essendrup. Arend Muller's land is owned by Simon R. Tammen and occupied by Ray Getzmeyer. Paul Thissen bought the William Miller land in section 16. The Dethlef brothers, William and Edward, bought the August Weber farm in section 27 and the Fred Niemeyers live on it. Frank Mann owns the Fred Walker farm in section 9. Nils Lindell's land in section 8 was sold to Tom Gunter and is now occupied by his son Roy. The Emil Krenz farm in section 2 was sold to George Dethlef and is occupied by his son Reuben Dethlef.

One person in the township lived to become a contenarian. She was Mrs. Garret Buss (nee Anke Bleeker), who was born in Germany on August 8, 1831. She married Garrett Buss in 1862. Three of the five children born to them died in infancy. In 1878 Mr. and Mrs. Buss emigrated to America where they lived in Illinois until they came to Lone Tree in 1889. They bought a farm in section 36 where they lived out their lives. Mr. Buss passed away Oct. 8, 1915. The son, Everad Buss died July 17, 1919 and the daughter, Mrs. Geerd Janssen, April 13, 1919. Mrs. Everard (Henrietta Taatjes) Buss with her family lived on the farm and cared for her aging mother-in-law until her death April 13, 1932. She had attained the age of 100 years, 8 months and 5 days. Mrs. Everad Buss celebrated her 92nd birthday August 25, 1963. She is well and alert and reads and crochets and makes rugs to pass the time away. She makes her home among her children in this area, Charles Buss in Lone Tree, Henrietta (Mrs. W. Zimmer) and Johanna (Mrs. Conrad H. Tebben) of Clara City, Evelyn (Mrs. Emil Gynild) of Willmar, and Anka (Mrs. Nan Peterson) of Raymond. A son John lives in Everett, Wash. and daughters Regina (Mrs. Roy W. Bornn) in the Virgin Islands and Minnie (Mrs. David Reardon) in Germany. Besides her husband, a son Everett and a daughter Martha (Mrs. Charles Van Volkenberg) are deceased. Martha was the first graduate nurse from Lone Tree.



Centennarian Mrs. Garrelt Buss

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Thissen on their Golden Wedding Day, December 27, 1942.

The oldest living resident of the township at this time is Mrs. Anton (Susanna Smith) Thissen who was 94 years of age St. Patrick's Day. She still resides on the farm on which she and her husband settled in 1894. Mr. Thissen was born in the Netherlands April 16, 1861 and emigrated with his parents to Mankato in 1884. Here he met and married Susanna Smith Dec. 27, 1892. Two years later they came to Lone Tree to make their home. Mr. Thissen died August 18, 1949. Mrs. Thissen continues to live on the home place with her son Paul and her daughter Mathilda, Mrs. Clarence Volz, and her husband and family. A son Philip, a veteran of World War I, died in 1921. The other children are Frank of Blooming Prairie, Kathryn (Mrs. Jake Schorn) of Raymond, Clara (Mrs. Chris Yunker) of St. Cloud, Rose (Mrs. John Thein) of Clara City and Anton Jr. of Raymond.

Many interesting stories attest to the pioneering spirit of these early settlers. Anton, Fred, John and William Thissen were four of a family of ten boys. In Blue Earth County near Mankato where this family came from Ghent soon after their arrival in America, these boys set out to clear 240 acres of heavily wooded land. As the last tree fell they formed a chorus and sang together: "Grosser Gott, Wir Loben Dich," "Holy Father, We Praise Thy Name!" The story of this achievement and its climax was written in a newspaper which came to some of the homes in the Clara City area. One family which read it was that of Bernard and Anna Margaret Schulte. Before long the Thissen young men came to the Clara City area and John met and married their daughter Mamie! Incidentally, this land in Blue Earth County is still owned by Thissens.

Life on the open prairie was a series of ups and downs. The weather played a great part in the lives of the people. Everyone has heard of the blizzards and storms that made those early days so miserable and yet so memorable. Tornadoes and cyclones too visited Lone Tree and left a trail of damaged property in their wake. On June 9, 1911 a tornado blew down the large barn of W. F. Reiners and the barn on the John Munch farm, later owned by Harm Reiners. Several windmills were blown down too. The barn on the Roy Gunter farm has been blown down twice, the last time in 1952.

Barn on William Doesken farm after cyclone, August 24, 1949.

On Sept. 12, 1944 a cyclone struck the farm place of Henry Andresen which was occupied by Herman Honken. It destroyed the barn and killed livestock. On August 24, 1949 the barn on the William Doesken farm was hit. One of the latest really severe snowstorms came in 1945 when after a winter with a lot of snow a good two and a half day blizzard really piled it up. Many roads were not opened for two weeks and township treasuries were depleted trying to pay for snowplowing.

Groothuis Belgian horses with old tank wagon used for delivering kerosene and gas. John Groothuis driving, daughters Julie and Jana. Lubbert Groothuis standing.

Last threshing machine in use—Groothuis Bros. owners.

With the passing years, life and ways and means change even in an agricultural area. Here the ox gave way to the horse as the source of power. Now, only one farm in Lone Tree has draft horses. Lubbert and John Groothuis own three farms totaling 880 acres. The home farm in Lone Tree was purchased in 1920 by their father, the late Rank Groothuis. Some 80 head of registered Herefords and some commercial cattle are raised. And they keep a few registered Belgian horses which they use for threshing, chores in the wintertime and for parades. Their threshing machine is the only one in use in the township now.. The tractor as a source of power has revolutionized farming so each farmer is more independent and no longer must trade work with his neighbors. This is the most noticeable at harvest time. No longer are stacks made with a crew of 12 to 20 arriving with a steam powered threshing rig to complete the harvesting job. Nor is a shock run organized among the neighbors.

One of the last threshing rigs, Wm. Doesken, owner, on machine. Mrs. Harm Ostendorf and Mrs. Russell Young pitching off bundles.

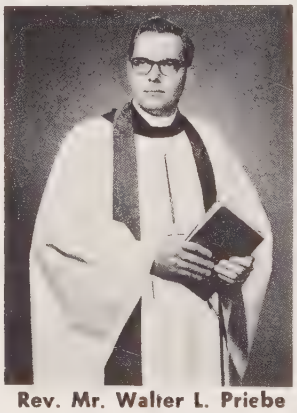
A tractor-drawn or self-powered combine operated by the farmer himself, and in many cases alone brings the operation of harvesting up to date. Farms are being enlarged and population is dropping, being 497 in 1940 and 441 in 1960.

Back in the years when Lindbergh was flying solo to Europe, Lone Tree also boasted an aviator. Harry Sechler owned his first plane in 1927. On nice Sunday afternoons he would often fly to Rutherford's grove and take up passengers for a ride. In 1939 Louis Steffens acquired a plane which he flew for some years. The Thissen brothers, Anton Jr. and Paul, have had a plane since 1953. Bob (Anton Jr.) has a hangar for the plane on his yard and they fly occasionally.

Realizing that the settlers of its area were without churches the Presbytery of St. Cloud which was just organized in 1893, hired a missionary and a pastor-at-large to minister to those in the 14 counties where there was no church organization, or to assist where there was. The missionary, Thomas Scotton (he was later ordained) came to Lone Tree in 1898 and started a Sunday School in the northwestern part. These were probably the services to which the Aspings referred. George Watkins was the first superintendent with a Mrs. Davis taking over the duties next.

Over in the northeastern part of the township the Lutherans organized in 1896 after being serviced by traveling missionaries also. One of them, Rev. Henry Vetter, became the first pastor of the Trinity congregation. Rev. H. W. Baumann, another missionary also conducted their services in a building which was parsonage upstairs and sanctuary on the main floor. The first resident pastor was Rev. Henry Klempt, who served the church for 24 years. During his pastorate, in 1903, the church was moved a mile east and across the road which put it in Kandiyohi County. A church was then built which is the one that was moved to Raymond in 1960, was remodeled and with the addition of a parish hall now serves its congregation from its new location on Highway 23. Rev. Roy L. Faulstick and Rev. R. Storm supplied the pulpit from 1927 to 1931 when Rev. F. Parduhn came. Rev. Martin Keller followed from 1944 to 1957. Rev. Oliver Schultz served as vacancy pastor until Rev. Henry Sporleder came in 1959 and then again when he left until the present pastor, Rev. G. H. Schaefer came in 1963. The late Chris Henslin served for 17 years as treasurer of the church. Mrs. Henslin has been a member since she came to Lone Tree as a bride in 1902. Mrs. Dora Sell, Stanley Sell, Marion Sell, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Beckman and family of Lone Tree are members also.

The township has one cemetery, laid out in 1947 on land donated by Anton Thissen Jr. on the southeast part of his farm. It is called the Sacred Heart Cemetery.



Rev. Mr. Walter L. Priebe

Rev. Fr. Albertus Thissen

The people of Lone Tree have furnished several who have gone into full time service for the Lord. Walter L. Priebe, son of the William Priebes was ordained at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Clara City, June 13, 1939. Rev. P. J. Kumpf preached the sermon and read the ordination rites assisted by Rev. R. Lechner of Raymond. His first call was to Chattanooga, Ohio. He is now in a suburb of Lansing, Michigan.

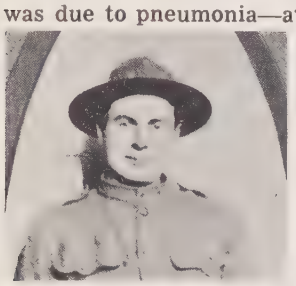
Albertus B. Thissen, second son of John and Mamie Thissen was ordained June 9, 1930 as a priest in St. Paul Cathedral in St. Paul. He celebrated his first Mass June 12, 1930 in Clara City. He passed away February 9, 1941.

The family of the Fred Thissens furnished six children for the church which certainly sets a record, probably far beyond Lone Tree. Fred Thissen home steaded in 1805. On July 16, 1900 he married Mary Boehme of Bird Island, Minn. She is now living at the St. Alexandria's Home in New Ulm. Two sons, Christopher and Herman and the father are deceased. Living are Susie, Sister M. Cleta,

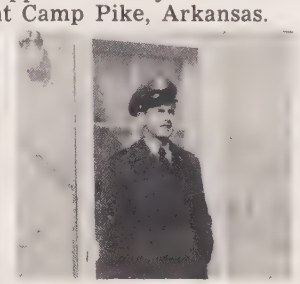
The Fred Thissen family. Back row—Rev. Fr. Fred; Susie, Sister M Cleta; Cecelia, Sister M Gretta; Marie, Sister M Meriam; Rev. Fr. Henry. Front row—Fred Thissen; Margaret, Sister M Eldred; Edward, Mrs. Fred Thissen.

S.S.N.D.; Ed of Grove City; Rev. Fr. Henry Thissen; Marie, Sister M Meriam S.S.N.D.; Rev. Fr. Frederick Thissen; Margaret, Sister M Eldred O.S.B.; and Cecelia, Sister M Gretta O.S.B.

The first native son to give his life in World War I was Peter Leuze, son of the Frank Leuzes. The Peter Lueze Post of the American Legion in Raymond was named in his honor. He was the first to die in service from Chippewa County. His death was due to pneumonia—at Camp Pike, Arkansas.



Pete Leuze



Capt. Frank W. Mann

Just recently a native son retired from the U.S. Air Force after completing twenty years of service. Capt. Frank Mann is probably the first career man from the township to retire. T. Sergeant Melvin Ulferts has been in the Air Corps since 1952. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ulfert Ulferts.

SCHOOLS OF LONE TREE

At one time there were six schools in Lone Tree Township. The opening of each was a big event in its day and many people acquired their only formal education therein. The years have brought many changes. With good roads, consolidations have taken place until there is no longer a school in session within the township. But in the memories of most of those living today are the recollections of childhood's first experiences away from home in the little one room country school where for eight years more or less they learned the three R's and infinitely more. Because these schools have been closed about ten years it has been difficult to accurately record their history. Unfortunately many records have been destroyed. With bits from the County Superintendent, Mrs. Valborg Wallien's office and what former students can recall something can be included about each.

District 40 was on the north line of section 11. It has consolidated with Raymond and its records lost.

The County Superintendent records that May Hennings of Willmar taught from 10/7 to 12/27, 1889. There was a new school house and it was well arranged. He thought the "little folks go to the teacher too much to show their work, thus making a disturbance". There were 7 pupils. The directors were J. P. Leykem, Emil Krenz and Golleif Krenz. In 1893 D. Stenart of Raymond taught from 10/2 to 12/13 with 15 pupils enrolled. Some of the other teachers were Lizzie Stewart, Fern Muller, May Summerville, Lena Sledten, Alma Fleuter, Jennie Bever, Mrs. Hugh Shepherd, Eva Corneliuson, Norma Borgandale, Viola Solseth, Inez Lindsay, Anne Suter, Mable Loumb and Irene Henslin. W. P. Martins, Harm Freese and John Hintz were among those who served as Trustees. Children came from the families of Schiebs, Zeihls, Jenks, Krenz, Streys, Lehmans, Henslins. Spletters, Holtcamps, Gerdes, Reitke, Freese, Hintz and Mielkes.

District 44 or the Hawk Creek school as it was called, was the oldest school in the township. It was organized in 1887 and built on land owned by Nils Lindell, now the Roy Gunter farm. The first teacher was Ida Arndtson of Wegdahl. She received a salary of $30 a month and taught 15 pupils. Clara Leighton of Raymond taught from 1889 to 91 with the exception of the '91 winter term. Her superintendent records this, "She is one of the best teachers in the County. The school room was beautifully decorated with flowers in the windows and order was excellent." Some of her pupils were Clara, Ned, Hugh and Harvey Watkins, Alfred Anderson, George and James Rutherford, Mary and Gena Nelson. The winter session in 1891 had been taught by Charles Robinson, better known as "Cinnamon Bear". Some of his pupils were James Hanson, Mary Cooly, Delia Patterson, Lewis Tabor, John Daley, Fanny Manning, Willie Holmes and Nellie Connel. The Trustees up to this time had been William Rutherford, John Hammer, Perry Watkins, Henry Knott and B. Asping. The 1894-95 term was taught by Clara Watkins with her pupils being: Otto and Earnest Johnson, George, Arthur and Hugh Watkins, Jennie Vries, Kosie and Willie Nelson, Alice Anderson, Hattie and Jettie Prekker, Frances Gysber, Willie Schamp. Charlie and Gundel Asping, Gust Nelson, Martha Zulke and James and George Rutherford. Mr. A. O. Fanberg taught much the same group in 1896 and Mr. E. Bacon in 1897.

In 1901 the trustees Wm. Rutherford, clerk, (who served as a member of the school board for 21 years), Nils Lindell, director, Otto Sell, treasurer, hired Mr. J. C. Jacobson. He later returned to school and became a doctor, practicing for many years in Willmar as Dr. J. C. Jacobs. C. B. Otteson was County Superintendent at this time. The roll this year included Alfred, Charlie and Herbert Asping, May Baker, Johnny DeVries, Rosy, Ida, Albert and John Engelbert, Hedwig, Richard, Anna, Otto, and Elsie Fleuter, Anna and Otto Gysber. Mathilda Johnson, Dick, Reiner, Bertha, Ella, and Anna Koster, Caroline. Fred and Charlie Link, Arthur, Theodore, Oscar, Evald and Hulda Lindell, Minnie Miller, Ella Nelson, Alvina and Mabel Sell and Frank Thissen. The last teachers were Lawrence Grussing, Mrs. Etta Boike and Mrs. Darlyne Haudek. Some of the family names changed in the later years to include Narragons, Gunters, Overlanders, Hilbrands, DeGrotes, Gehrkes, DeHoux, Sells, Ericksons and Strootmans. The district consolidated with the Clara City school January 19, 1954. The building was moved to the Bill DeGrote farm.

District 48 was known as the "Tiger Lily" School. About 1955 or '56 it was consolidated into Raymond and its records have been lost. 1888 is the first known term. The Superintendent recorded at that time that the school was out on the open prairie. Allie Knott taught from 12-3 to 3-1 for $25 a month. The Trustees were J. W. Lindner, Sarah Cornick and A. J. Seifred. That spring she taught 2 months again. There were 19 pupils. In 1860 the superintendent commented that there would be more pupils if they did not have to work on the farm. The school in a few years was filled to capacity in the winter months. It became the social center of the area as most schools did, with basket socials and home talent plays and programs of various kinds. The highlight of the school year for the children was the spelling bee when they were transported by horse and buggy to neighboring schools for a spell down. Then the picnic at the last day of school was a big event in the district. In 1939 a parcel of land was purchased from John J. Scheltens for $300 to enlarge the school grounds. A modern new school house was erected. The last teacher was John E. Asche who had returned from overseas duty with the army, married and lived in a trailer house on the school grounds. It was not uncommon for local boys to marry the school teacher. In this district the Pete Scheltens young men were alert and chose three for their wives, all with the initials M. S. Henry married Margaret Swenson, John chose Mildred Stover and Bert Myra Sacharison. Pete Jr. broke the record when he married Crystal Berg! When this school was closed the building was sold and moved to near Granite Falls where it is still in use as a school building.

District 48
The Tiger Lily School

District 65 held school from 1892 to 1950 at which time it was voted to send the children to the Clara City school. The teachers in the order in which they taught are as follows: Those starred are from the Clara City area. Olina Fuguschall, Lucy Lewis*, Maggie Glen*, Prof. Wells, Chas Strong, Edward Hofstede*, Katie Lavelle, Nellie Faus, Mary Stewart, Alice Ross*, Emma Lindahl, Helene Erlandson, Melvina Johnson, Agnes Jungers*, Amanda Geib*, Emma Voss*, Anna Greenfield*, Jennie Skoglund, Edith Nelson, Tillie Kuiper*, Katie Kuiper*, Anna Westendorp*, Walter Reiners*, Bertha Shervey, Bernice Hogdson, Margaret Lawler, Clarence Dahl, Cora Birch, Ruby Arntzen, Margaret Skonard, Sarah Reid, Clarice Berge, Etta Freese*, Leona Krueger, Eunice Grenholz*, Clarice Grenholz*, Martha Ahlfs*, Jennie Grussing*, Miss Golbrecht, Leona Bang, Jeanette Irvin, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Jane Grussing*, Lawrence Grussing*. During these years the teachers wages ranged from $25 to $250 and the school terms from 6 months to 9. Some of the school board members were W. F. Reiners, George Doesken, Martin Berends (the school was often called the Berends school), Frank Gerdes, John Lepler, John Steffens, George L. Gerdes, Wm. Doesken, John G. Doesken, Geo. Reiners, Chas. Buss, Simon J. and Simon R. Tammen, Andy H. Andersen and Russell Young. The school building was sold to Wm. Zeller and is used as a farm building.

District 77 was built in the fall of 1901. Mr. Anton Thissen was one of those most active in the organization of this school. Built on a part of the William Priebe farm it was a large building, 40'x45' with front porch, a hall, two cloak rooms and a back room for wood and coal. A large bell was hung in the steeple.

The first trustees were: Anton Thissen, Wm. Priebe, Sr., Frederick Fleuter. The County Superintendent at the time was Hilda Gippe. Margaret Davis was the first teacher and received a salary of $50 a month. The pupils that first term came from the Link, Thissen, Narrogan, Fleuter, DeGrote, Miller, Baker and Rummel families. The teachers through the years were Margaret Davis, Elsie Stew-

District 65 The Berends District, Katie Lavelle teacher 1898-99. Front row — Lizzie Salzman, Gertie Berends, Fannie Bontjes, Emma Bontjes, Agnes Gerdes, Katie Reiners, Dora Salzman, Arthur Salzman, Claus Lepler, Reiner Reiners, Willie Grashuis, John DeGrote, Tillie Miller, Mattie Lepler. Edith Doesken, Tillie Doesken, Martha Berends, Lizzie Muller, Hannah Berends, Alvina Salzman, Sarah Muller, Tillie Miller, Dena Berends. Middle row—Henry G. Doesken, John Gerdes, Henry E. Doesken, Harm Reiners, Annie Bontjas. Back row—Ben Bontjes, Angelus Lepler, Lansom Ross, Willie Doesken, Willie Ross, John Lepler, Jake Lepler, Fred DeGrote, Effie Bontjes, Dena Doesken, Alice Ross, Etta Luitjens, Lena Reiners, Ella Behrends, Katie Doesken, Lena Muller, Lizzie Gerdes, Cassie Gerdes, Trena Muller, Susie Doesken, Annie Miller and Dora Muller.

District 77

art, Esther Lindell, Grace Corratheas, Browning Nichols, Jr., Maude Harder, Elva Mae George, Mollie Feldhammer, Selma Heglund, Evelyn Powers, Maybelle Tollefson, Sylvia Syvere, Minnie Luitjens, Beth Brennan, Vivian Nelson, Edith Gallagher, Edna O'Connor, Elodie Anderson, Anna Person, Ida Hassenbank, Elizabeth Radischat, Edith Wallace and Clarence Gunter. Dist. 77 was noted for its home talent and basket socials. All the young people would take part in the programs. During the time that Edith Gallagher, Selma Heglund, Evelyn Powers, Mollie Feldhammer and Elva George taught a good many programs and socials and good times were had. The money from the sales was used by the teacher to buy things for the school.

County Agent Glasspoole organized a Farmer's Club here. Programs were given bv various people in the neighborhood and Agent Glasspoole would give a talk on farm problems. It proved to be very interesting to the farmers. This school building was dismantled in 1953 and the district was consolidated with the Clara City School Jan. 19, 1954.

The school house for District 78 was in the northwest corner of section 23. The district has now been consolidated with the Raymond school. Among the pupils who attended were children from the Anderson, Lindner, Thissen, Kluver, Weber, Dingerman, Dethlef, Jobe, Schamp, Beisterfeldt, Henslin, Essendrup and Ulferts families. Some of the teachers were Mayme Brown, Alma Christianson, Louella Lund, Hulda Williams, Hilda Belin, Milicent Milsness, Mrs. Casey Mouw, Elizabeth Mann, Anita Doesken, Anne Suter, Arlene Peterson, Jennie Grussing, Myra Schelten, Doris Day, Mildred Peterson, William Greenfield.

Alma Fleuter

The first high school graduate from the township was Alma Fleuter who was graduated from the Clara City High School in the class of 1915. She became a teacher and taught three terms in District 40. She is now Mrs. Erick Wollschlager of Montevideo.

April 20, 1918 a meeting was called in Dist. 77 for the purpose of organizing the township Red Cross work. Mrs. J. J. Caspers was chosen chairman, Mrs. J. Gunter, vice chairman; Kathryn Thissen secretary and Mr. E. L. Narragon treasurer. Ethel Narragon, Hazel Sell, Susan Thissen, Freida Lindner, Kathryn Thissen and Elsie Priebe canvassed the township for memberships and funds. Meetings were held in home on alternate Thursdays with the busy farmer's wives taking their hospital gowns home to complete.

Mrs. George Doesken, Mrs. E. L. Narragon and Mrs. Anton Thissen inspected the finished garments. Mrs. Byrnes, Mrs. Priebe and Mrs. Steffens taught other women to knit. Mrs. Narragon made a Red Cross quilt that was auctioned off at the Farmer's Club for $10. They adopted a French orphan, Odette Castelat. In the seven months before the Armistice they held 11 meetings besides several picnics, dances and basket socials. They raised $465.28 and completed 41 bed shirts, 18 suits of pajamas, 17 pair knitted sox, 8 sweaters and buttonholes in 30 shirts. Of the 178 members in the township about 36 did the bulk of this work.

Louriston Township

The first meeting for organizing the township of Louriston was held on September 3rd, 1877, and the first town meeting was held on September 18, 1877. The moderator was Henry Armstrong. Elected to the first town board were Harvey D. Armstrong, clerk; Henry Armstrong, Chas. Anderson, and A. P. Brandt, supervisors; D. L. Klemmer, treasurer; Henry Armstrong and G. W. William, justices; J. Hershey and Chas. Martinson, constables. A one-mill tax was levied for current expenses.

The first board meeting was held on the 16th day of February 1878 and the township was laid out in road districts and road overseers appointed. The second annual town meeting was held in the school house of District 10 on the 12th day of March 1878. Three places were selected for posting town and legal notices. A place for impounding stray animals was selected. (We can easily understand why this would be needed as there were no roads every square mile then and few fences and farm animals could easily stray from owners). A ballot was taken as to whether cattle, horses, and mules should be allowed to run at large. It was turned down by a 15 to 3 vote.

Moneys voted for the township were as follows: $33 for the past year's expenses; $75 for current expenses, and $25 for road and bridge fund. It was voted that no prairie fires should be started from the first of September that year, 1878, to the first of March the following year, and every year after that. The constables were to arrest, or cause to be arrested, anyone who started such fires. For the years following the settlers continued to come in, especially during the 80's and 90's.

Louriston received its name from Laura Eston and the name of the township was at first spelled Lauriston. We weren't able to get any information on who she was.

The first settler was John R. Goodenough who settled in Section 7 in the year 1867. He was the only settler in this area for two years. Then two young men came and settled in Section 8.

Henry Armstrong came from Ohio to the Stillwater area first before coming to Louriston in 1869. He had been a Civil War veteran. He kept a small store and post office (called the Louriston Post Office) near Shakopee Lake (or Buffalo Lake). He married Petra Olson in 1871. The five eldest children are: Laura, William Harry, John A., Charles F., and Edwin.

Harvey Armstrong, also came from Ohio as his cousin, Henry, did. Lived first near Stillwater and came to Section 8 in 1869. He married Martha Ericson in 1873. The children whose names we know are: Ida, Fred, Jennie, and Della.

Francis Barrager came to Louriston from Canada, via Wisconsin and took up a claim in 1875 after serving in the war between the States. He married Mary Nason, the first teacher in District 10. She was a native of Maine.

The Gunder Erickson Kirkhus home.

The Gunder Erickson Kirkhus family came in 1869 and settled in the same section as did the Armstrongs. The photo shows a gathering of neighbors who surprised the Kirkhus' at their home on the prairie. The picture must have been taken on a beautiful fall day as the trees are without leaves. Louriston had a photographer by the name of F. Pearson in those early days. He took these pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkhus. The Kirkhus' were great-grandparents of Ruth, Bennie, and Bernard Anderson, children of Oliver Anderson.

Charles Anderson and wife, Mary, nee Erickson, both came from Norway to settle in Section 18 of Louriston in 1876. Four of their children were: Addie G., Minnie E., Emma G., and Edward O.

Other early settlers in this northwestern part of this township were: John and Ben Johnson and a Torkelson in Section 5 and 6, and Karl Martinson in Section 18.

John D. Johnson and his brother Ben came from Litchfield to take up land in Louriston Township in 1869. Litchfield was as far as the R. R. went. Ben took a homestead on the east side of Buffalo Lake and John homesteaded on the west side of the lake, both in section 6. John D. Johnson married Louise Pearson in Stillwater in October, 1871. They lived in a dugout at first. Later they built a small house in which they lived until 1877 when an unfortunate accident happened. Somehow the house caught fire while Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were out after a load of prairie hay. Their two small daughters, Emma and Minnie, 3 and 1½ years old were burned to death in the fire. The remains of these two children are buried in the cemetery on the banks of Buffalo Lake, property now owned by Oliver Anderson.

They built another home on a new location about a half mile from the original home. It was a large double house, built with the idea that two families might occupy it some day. The Roy and Albert Stottlers live there now. There were ten children in the Johnson family. Besides Emma and Minnie, Albert, Charlie, Frank, Oscar and another Emma and Minnie have passed away. Amanda Lindberg Smith of Benson and Ida Nokelby of Grace Township are the only two left. They remember well having several Indians come to their home asking for food at different times. They would always be given something and would go away satisfied. They never bothered the Johnsons except when they wanted something to eat. Many an arrow head and other parts of hunting equipment which prairie Indians used, have been found near the lake by the Johnsons.

Mrs. Johnson told her daughters about the first five winters here. John and his brother Ben went to work in a logging camp in Stillwater. The women stayed alone while they were gone. They walked to New London for food supplies as there was no place nearer where they could get the meager necessities of life.

They tell a story about buffalo rings. When a buffalo mother was about ready to give birth to her calf she would make what was called a buffalo ring. She would tramp around and around in a circle until she had broken down the grass to form a good sized ring. Inside this ring the calf was born. The calf remained within its bounds until such time that it would be able to take care of itself, or at least be able to keep up with the herd. It is also said that the buffalo cows and bulls formed a ring around their calves, keeping their calves inside this ring, as a means of protection against hungry enemies that might be prowling through the tall, prairie grass.

Oliver Anderson tells of an early way of fishing for Buffalo fish in Buffalo Lake. The Shakopee Creek runs in and out of the Lake. The fisherman would drive his wagon in to the narrow place where the water left the lake to go on down the creek. The wagon box would just submerge. The fish would swim into the box and when a sufficient number were trapped the fisherman would drive his team out and have his catch all loaded and ready to go home.

Front: Emma, Minnie, Amanda. Center: Ida on lap, Mrs. John Johnson, Frank. Standing: Charlie, Albert, John Johnson.

August Neal came here in 1876 from Red Wing at the same time as Nels P. Swanson and Ole Eckwall. They all settled in Section 20. August Neal was a Civil War veteran. The Neal farm has remained in the family. Rueben Neal, a son of John Neal, lives on that farm now.

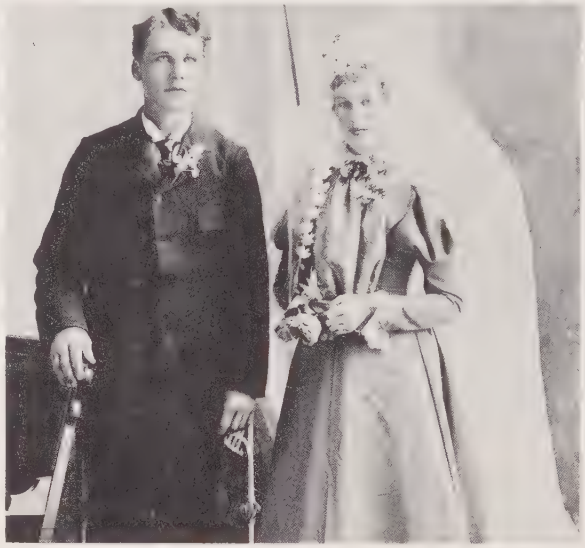
John, Hannah, Emma, Charles Neal

The Peter Olson family

Peter Olson was one of the party of eight who left Red Wing in the spring of 1876 and settled in the south and west part of the township. He claimed land in Section 30. This farm is owned by his son, Agath, but is farmed by Robert Olson, the third generation in this family.

Charles Engberg, another member of this party also settled in Section 30 in 1876. Eddie Alberts owns this farm now but Lyman Miller lives there.

N. P. Swanson, Nels Nelson, and Sven E. Mattson were early settlers who came from Red Wing and settled in Section 20 and 29.

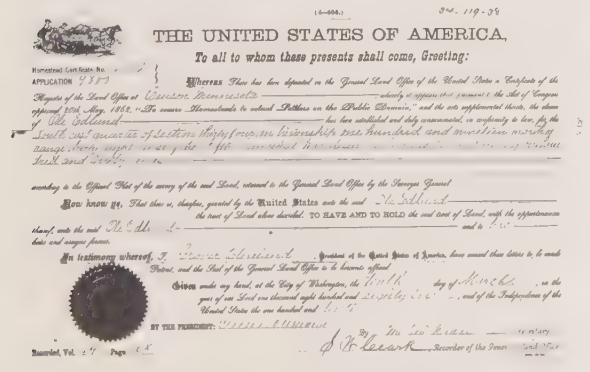


Magnus Sherman claimed land in Section 32. That farm is now farmed by Bert Poppen, the son of Ben Poppen who owns the property.

Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Brandt claimed a quarter section in Section 32. Mr. Brandt was a member of the party of eight men who came here from Red Wing in 1876. The buildings are now empty. The Otto Johnson's and son, Wallace, were the last occupants.

Mr. and Mrs. John Strom settled in Section 28 about 1880. He maintained a Post Office on his farm, named Prosperity. Mail was to and from Kerkhoven and Murdock. The Otto Strom's, son of John Strom, had lived on this farm with their family, Arthur, Lillian, Oscar, Alfred, Ernest and Ida for many years until they moved to Willmar. The farmstead has been moved across the road. Ed Mittag now lives on this farm. William Strom, brother of Otto Strom once owned the farm where W. B. Williams now lives in Section 27.

Ole Edlund came directly to Louriston when he arrived in America and settled on his homestead in Section 34 about 1880. His wife, Maria, came about one year later. Their daughter, Ellen, married Reinhold Lorz and they took over the farm. She lived on the place of her birth for 61 years when she moved to Murdock. Walter Koenen lives on that farm now.



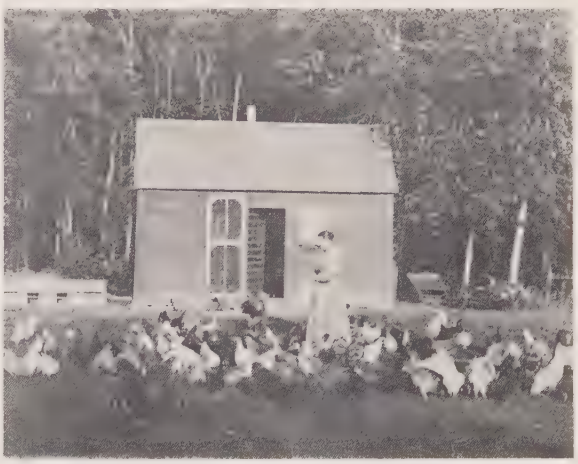
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

This is a copy of the original land grant deeded to Ole Edlund under the Homestead Act by Grover Cleveland, U.S. president. It was registered at the land office in Benson first. Later it was recorded at the courthouse in Montevideo.

A. G. Swanson and his brother, known as Sailor Swanson, claimed land in Section 28. Clifford Sanderson lives on the former Anders G. Swanson farm.

Peter August Anderson came to America about 1880 also and homesteaded in Section 34. He and his wife continued to live on this farm until their death. They had nine children: Jennie (Neal), William A., Selma Watkins, Albin, Otto (deceased), Minnie Edberg (deceased), Carl (deceased), Annie Anderson and Clara Miller.



What is so unusual about this photo? Only that, at the time this one of Mrs. Anderson was snapped, a flock of chickens this large was quite unusual. There were no hatcheries, or special feeds for hens and chicks. Hens had to set on twelve to fifteen eggs for three weeks and probably raise a half dozen chicks to become the adult chickens. Hens were not fenced in and the chicks had several enemies, including early morning dews, rain, cold, weasels, mink, and several others. This must have been chore time as she is bringing them feed in her apron. (After the apron was empty she very likely went into the henhouse to gather the eggs into that very same handy article of wearing apparel. Another thing these farm women used these large aprons for was bringing in fuel, cobs and wood, for the kitchen stove.)

The August Anderson farmstead about 1910.

Michael Condon and wife Louise lived in Section 26 during the early years of their married life. They moved to Clara City where Mike went into business. Their story will be found with the Clara City history. The Fred Asche family and Mr. and Mrs. John F. Asche now live on that farm. It was on this farm that the former District 47 school buildings were located.

Thomas Condon, a brother of Mike, obtained land in the same section as Mike. They had come to America about 1880 a few years before their parents, the Patrick Condons. However, the Patrick Condons obtained land in Crate Township after having lived with their sons for a time. Some of the children of Thomas and Nora Condon are: John, Mary, James, Willie, Ella, Bennie, Leo, Agnes, and Vincent. Some of them are now living in St. Cloud. The Koert Tebbens and Kasjen M. Tebbens lived on this place. The Louis Hinrichs family have this farm now.

John and James Coleman settled in Section 24. John Coleman and his wife, Mary (Hubbard), came from County Cork, Ireland, in 1847, but did not take up residence in Louriston until 1878 or 1879. Their children were: Honora, Mary, Patrick, John, James, Thomas, and Daniel. Daniel continued to reside on his farm in Section 24 until his death. Dan and Lena Coleman's children are: Annie (deceased), Katie, Frank, Bernard, Rose, Margaret, Edwin, Sylvester, Eleanor, and Clarence (deceased).

John H. Lewis came to Louriston in 1882. He resided on the same farm in Section 10 until his death. He was very active in community and school affairs and was interested in politics. John Lewis and wife, Hattie, had three children: Eugene, who died as a young boy from injuries received when kicked by a horse; Henry, deceased; and Grace, Mrs. Philip Foster of Battle Lake, Minnesota. Mrs. Henry Lewis and children still reside on the farm.

Christ Petersen came to the United States from Denmark. He and his wife Edith, came to Louriston from Faribault in 1896 and settled in Section 23. They resided in this township until 1940 when they moved into Kerkhoven. They had eight children: Florence Williams, Alfred, Robert, Cora Bentley, Lilly Lundberg, Nellie Beck, Mildred Armstrong, and Donald. Donald and his family are living on the home place.

Frank E. Carlson bought land and settled on Section 11 about 1882. There were nine children in the Carlson family. A son, Emery, lives in Kerkhoven. The Chas. Rozenboom's live on that farm.

Gust Lundberg was an old time settled in Section 10 and Carl J. Moberg, and A. J. Ortenblad bought school land in Section 16.

Sidney Yost and her brothers, George, a Civil War veteran, and Marion, came to Section 34 at about the same time as Crate Beasley came to Minnesota. The Yosts are all buried in the township cemetery which was once a Methodist cemetery. The Peter Wachsman's, and Ernest Wachsman's lived on this place. The Joe Ruiter family now owns this farm.

Back row: John Rademacher, Zach Jones, Clara Kief, Phil Kief, Estella Kief, Paul Kief. Second row: Edna Brumbaugh Kief, A. E. Kief, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Kief, Anna Kief Moyer, Sumner Moyer. Front row: Pauline Kief, Wayne Kief, Marjorie Kief, Jimmie Moyer.

Phillip Kief was one of the early farmers in Louriston township, coming to live on and operate his farm a part of which was located on the East half of section one, in 1897, although he had purchased it in the 1880s.

He was born and grew to manhood near Norwood, Minnesota but upon his marriage to Minnie Gehlbach, a daughter of his father's neighbor in Germany who had migrated to Illinois, started farming in Logan County, Illinois until he moved to his farm in Louriston, with his wife, and children Anna, Clara, A. E. and Estella, and two orphaned nephews John and Jacob Rademacher, who had made their home with him in Illinois. Later their sister, Louisa (Mrs. Gustav Lundberg) came to live on a nearby farm. Sons Phillip N. and Paul G. were born in Louriston.

Mr. Kief took an active part in the affairs of the township, serving for many years on the school board of District 38, giving it the name of "Peanut Row School" from an impression he had in passing just as school was over for the day. As he approached the school first came the larger children down the road, as they could walk faster, and the closer he came to the school the smaller the children. He exclaimed: "They look just like a row of peanuts"!

He also served as Road Supervisor, and was instrumental in the location of a number of the improved roads. You recall in those days the farmers put in time working out the poll tax on the road construction! Mr. Kief seemed to keep good order with the young men who worked on the crew.

In the early years, before the planted groves had grown, he could see the lights of Clara City 13 miles straight south of his building site.

The rapid deterioration of the floors of the wooden wagon boxes led him to invent and secure a patent for a steel wagon box, a number of which he had manufactured and sold in the community, but the cost prevented their general use. However, today, there are some still in use.

He was interested in equipment that was adequate for the job, and took great pride in it. He had the first and one of the few 12 foot cut, 6 horse push binders, and was one of the first to construct a silo. He had a steam threshing machine during all of his residence in Louriston, continuing that occupation each fall for years after he removed to Montevideo. His Port Huron threshing rig started early on shock runs and continued until late in the fall with stack threshing. He was proud of the fine horses on the farm.

His daughter Clara taught schools in Louriston and Crate, while a little later his daughter Estella taught schools in Havelock.

In 1916 he moved to Montevideo, where he made his home thereafter. This picture in front of the family home was taken in 1921. Among the old timers one still hears stories about Phillip Kief.

Steve Foley obtained land in Sections 9 and 10 in 1877. Mr. Foley had a cart, an old horse, and two oxen when he came. He was not a farmer by occupation but a tinsmith. He had also worked in the lumber and logging industry. He was a point man, one who keeps the logs moving in the river to prevent or break up log jams. The Foley farm was a stopping place for traffic between Clara City and Kerkhoven as this was about one half way between the two communities. Much lumber for the Clara City area was hauled from Kerkhoven. The wagons would stop to rest and water their horses here. They crossed Shakopee Creek just north of their place. John and William Foley live on the farmstead now.

Martin G. Mattson, who passed away this late

summer (1963) at the age of ninety years came to this township at the age of three years, having lived on the same farm in Section 17 for 87 years. He came with his father, Swen E. Mattson in 1876. Swen decided to take land in Section 20 and 17 as there was a spring near the corner of Section 20. (George Mattson lives in the buildings on this quarter). With a spring on his farm he wouldn't need to worry about the water supply. In order to get to the site chosen for their home they had to cross a buffalo trail that led to the water hole made by the spring. This trail had been worn down so deep that they had to fill in dirt before their wagons could cross it. This spring went dry in about the year 1934.

The first marriage in the township was that of Harvey D. Armstrong and Martha Erickson in April, 1873. The first birth was a daughter to the John R. Goodenough's in 1868. The first death occurred in 1873, that being John Barrett. The first funeral was of the infant child of the Torkelson's. The year of 1871 saw no rain.

This Buick was the first automobile in Louriston. It was owned by P. A. Anderson. Notice the fold-down windshield and top, and the spare tire on the side. It had right-handed steering. The presto-lites had to be lighted with a match. The tank which held the gas for the lights was bolted on to the running board. There was no door on the right hand side in front. There were no fender skirts in those days!

The first 4th of July celebration was held on the west side of Buffalo Lake. It was later changed to the east side where there was a nice plot of several acres with large shade trees around an open area. Here celebrations were held for many years and people from the surrounding community and from as far away as Clara City came for entertainment. There were contests of several kinds, refreshment stands, and always a good baseball game between a very good Louriston team and DeGraff or some other local town or township.

Shown here are several scenes. The upper left is a 4th of July gathering at Buffalo Lake. Top, right, and the two bottom corner pictures are scenes of Buffalo Lake. Center left shows the former store and living quarters of the Louriston store owned by August Donner. Later this building was torn down and two homes have been built here. The Virgil Swanson's and the Chester Martinson's. Across the road is the Zion Lutheran Church, and cemetery. Center inset is the first Buffalo Lake Mission Covenant Church. Center right was the Buffalo Lake store. Center bottom is a picture of the Norwegian Lutheran church which was later moved into the town of Grace.

Tom Condon Place—gathering at baseball game.

Louriston Baseball Team

Fishing in Buffalo Lake was always good then. Willie Anderson and Abe Orlebeke from Clara City went fishing there. This picture is evidence that fishing was good. There was no limit to the catch or no fishing license to buy either. Wonder what they used for bait!

Buffalo Lake was not only used for summer recreation, boating, fishing, and picnics but was a winter recreation spot as well. This picture was taken in 1912 of the ski slide the young folks had made. Some parts of the lake were good for skating, too.

The year 1934 was a dry year and no crops were harvested. Many of the trees died, most of which had been planted by the pioneers in the community. Conditions came back to normal in a few years. Farmers put more land into cultivation as many low places were drained. Many farms have changed hands. Several new names have appeared as farms were sold to folks coming from other states. Many a young man has taken over his father's farm.

The social life in the community has changed with the passing of the rural schools. At the present neighbors do not see each other, except at funerals, or by chance they meet in town, or at some other event of importance at all. With the coming of the large modern machinery there isn't too often that farmers get together to help one another. There was a time when they helped each other at butchering some time during the winter but now most of it is done at a slaughter house and locker plant.

When a young couple was married the neighbors and friends would charivari them. The charivariers would receive a token of money or a treat. This picture was taken at the Henning Johnson home where this crowd had gathered in honor of the Frank Johnson's (Victoria Youngman) and the Carl Sandberg's (Jeannie Skoglund). These two couples furnished the ice cream and the friends provided the rest of the lunch. Some familiar faces are: Harry Armstrong, John Neal, Harry Edberg, Willie Benson, Willie Freeman, Eddie Youngman, Otto Anderson, Emil Karlberg, Elmer Olson, Willie Anderson, Carl Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sandberg, Mrs. Otto Strom, Mrs. Andrew Youngman, Mrs. Henning Johnson, Delia Youngman, Selma Watkins, Mrs. Jennie Neal, Ida Olson, Mrs. August Anderson, Mrs. Oscar Johnson, Annie Anderson, Amy Johnson, August Anderson, Henning Johnson, Carl Borgstrom, Albin Anderson and Arthur Olson.

There were times when young folks took it easy. Pictured in this lawn swing are: the three Edberg girls—Annie, Ella, and Lillie—and Amanda Olson, and Amy Johnson.

Many episodes took place which seem comical now, but were not funny to the parties involved. Ole Edlund and Peter A. Anderson farmed in the same section. Each had an ox and would use them together. Anderson had a horse, too. They tried hitching the horse and ox together but that didn't work very well. When the horse wanted to go north the ox maybe decided to go south and the driver had no intentions of going either way.

Courtesy Tribune Printing Company

There was a young man, Willie Firk, who spent some time working for some farmers in Louriston, as well as in Kerkhoven, and other areas around. The story that is told was that one evening he asked to borrow a horse and buggy from his boss. He was told that the only one he could have was an unbroken horse, and that he was welcome to take him. This he did. The next morning when the farmer got up he saw the young man coming, pulling the buggy and the horse was tied behind the buggy.

One evening the Tom Condon young folks were on their way to a house party and dance when one of their horses became very ill. They stopped at the Millers. The sick horse died there and they left the other horse at Millers and walked the rest of the way. They were fortunate to get home with the Eisenrichs. Next day they got their buggy and horse.

Courtesy Tribune Printing Company

Another story is told of severe winter blizzards that caused a lot of misery to the old timers. John Strom's well was snowed under one winter so they shoveled down to the pump and Mr. Strom filled buckets and handed them up to his three sons so they could water their stock.

Another story told at town board meetings was about two early settlers north of Buffalo Lake, who had been to town one winter day. They had had a few drinks too many and got off the road (of which there were few) and one of the horses fell into some kind of well. One of the men went down to help lift or push the horse while the other stayed above. In the darkness he could not see what was going on, but they came out all right except for the horse.

Stack threshing and crew at Neals.

Carl Johnson's Rumely

The first thresher in the township was a horse powered, hand fed outfit owned by Chas. Martinson and Chas. Anderson. Emanuel Carlson threshed with the first steam outfit. This outfit had to be pulled from place to place with a team. Later Neal, Engberg, and Stroklund had an Advance thresher. Later Strom Brothers, Armstrongs, and others had machines. When the gas engine came into use the steam threshers faded out. Carl Johnson purchased the first tractor, a Rumely Oil Pull, which burned kerosene. It was a 30-60 horsepower with a road speed of two miles an hour. When the threshing season was over this tractor was usually put away until the next threshing season.

These pictures show two different ways they hitched horses to the gang (two bottom) plows. For the sulky (one bottom) usually three horses were used; but sometimes four, if the plowing was tough.

Rev. Hans Siverson organized and held the first religious services in 1871 among the Norwegian Lutherans. A few years later other denominations were holding services, either in the schoolhouses or in homes. There were four organized churches at one time, the Norwegian Lutheran, the Swedish Lutheran, the Swedish Methodist, and the Swedish Mission. The Presbyterians held services and Sunday School in school houses. Members of the Roman Catholic faith attended services in either DeGraff or Murdock.

Reverend P. Beckman was organizer and served as their pastor until 1890. Then Pastor E. Norsen served the parish until 1893. During the time he was here the first class of twelve young people was confirmed. Rev. Beckman returned in 1893 and served as the pastor until 1897.

It was during the year 1897 that the church was built. Bemore this, services were held in the homes and in a schoolhouse for the first 18 years. A Sunday School was organized in 1899; a Luther League in 1908.

The Zion (Swedish) Lutheran congregation was organized in 1879 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Olson. The following are charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Peter Olson and son, Albin; Mr. and Mrs. John Strom and family; Charley Strom; Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson and family; Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Swanson; and Mr. and Mrs. John Goranson.

The Sunday School in 1934

The ladies of the church organized a sewing society in 1898 which was later changed to Ladies Aid Society. Some years afterward the name was changed to Dorcas Society. Now it is the LCW or Lutheran Church Women. A missionary society was organized in 1924 at the home of Mrs. Adolph Johnson. The Missionary Society is now a part of LCW.

The following pastors have served in Zion: The Reverends P. Beckman, E. Norsen, J. Lunggren, C. O. Bergquist, A. J. Berghult, J. E. Hedberg, Melvin Hedin, Bertil Erling, Carl Cederberg, and A. E. Peterson. The present pastor is Reverend Ronald Swenson.

The pastor's salary in 1890 was $100 that year. In 1891 it was raised to $125 plus one sack of wheat and one sack of oats from each farm member.

The church building was raised and a basement put under it in 1930. The basement and hall have been finished off in knotty pine.

The church cemetery is a part of the church grounds. The first burial was Hulda J. Sherman in 1881.

A large barn had also been erected on the church grounds in about 1900, but that has been removed when it was no longer needed.

Zion Lutheran will celebrate the 85th anniversary of its founding in 1964.

A Norwegian Lutheran church was organized around Buffalo Lake in 1872 by Reverend Severtson. The first confirmation was held in a dugout west of the lake. This property is now owned by Jake Nokleby. A cemetery was established on property now owned by Oliver Anderson, on the banks of Buffalo Lake. Their cemetery and church are now in Grace Township.

The Buffalo Lake Mission Church was first known as the Swedish Mission Church of Louriston. In 1892 Carl Moberg started a Sunday School in District 36. This continued for ten years or more. On June 27, 1893, a group met at the Swen Mattson home and organized a church congregation. Reverend Carl C. Borglin of Ortonville was the organizer. The following charter members were present at the organizational meeting: Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Holmquist; Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Magnuson; Swan E. Mattson; Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Moberg; Henry Neal; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Ortenblad; and Mr. and Mrs. August Shellgren.

The church was built in 1908 at a cost of about $1,572 on ground donated by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Moberg. The first three confirmation classes were held in the homes in 1897, 1902, and 1906. The early pastors were S. P. Kretz, E. Wallgren, and A. N. Osterholm. Reverend Theodore Steinert was serving the congregation when the church was built. He also served Frank Lake. West Lake, and Swenoda congregations in Swift County. It is interesting to note that the Buffalo Lake congregation was to see that the preacher got fodder and feed for his team of horses and to pay $10 a month toward house rent for him and his family while the other congregations were to furnish the hay and some feed for the preacher's horses and cows and other necessities.

Other pastors were: A. W. Carlson, Arvid Ostling, S. E. Roslin, Theo. Paulson, Ervin Gustafson, Roy Sweiven, Albin Nelson. Rev. Edwin Johnson is the present minister.

The church building burned to the ground on December 16, 1946. Rebuilding was begun the following year. For a part of the interim when they were without a church building and Zion Lutheran was without a pastor they got together and Zion furnished the building and Buffalo Lake Mission, the pastor. In 1962-63 an electric organ was purchased and a well and water system installed.

They have an active Ladies Aid Society that was organized in 1907, a Sunday School since 1892, and a Young People's Society.

There was a Methodist organization in the early days which was served by pastors from Willmar. They held their services in District 36. As the Pioneers went away this congregation was dissolved. There is a cemetery now owned by the township that was established by the Methodist congregation on property owned by Martin Mattson.

The Presbyterians also organized and held services in school houses and were served by several pastors and student pastors. They also had a Sunday School. Later this congregation joined with and went into the Kerkhoven Presbyterian Church.

One of the first concerns of the settlers was to have some education for their children. The earliest school district formed in Louriston was District No. 10. According to some records it was formed on January 21, 1871. There were no set boundaries for districts then so pupils came from Grace Township as well as some who lived in Swift County near the Chippewa County line.

The first teacher was Mary Nason who taught in 1876. Mary Nason is also mentioned as having taught there in 1877. Alice Hubbard also taught there in 1877. There was a fall term, a winter term, and a spring term and often there was a different teacher for each term. The winter term was the most difficult for these young inexperienced teachers. They tried to avoid it for it was then that the older boys would attend school. This included young immigrant men from the Scandinavian countries eager to learn the American language.

The schoolhouse wasn't built until 1878, according to some records while others give the date as 1877 or before. The treasurer's report had its first entry dated October 7, 1876. The location is the same in the records, that is on an acre of land in the northwest corner of Henry Armstrong's homestead. The total cost of all buildings was about

$450. The following is a list of the disbursements for the year for lumber, tar paper, siding, hardware, etc., and the teachers salary:

Paid for teacher's wages	$ 18.00
Paid for wood and school supplies	5.98
Paid for new schoolhouse building material	183.63
Paid for stove and pipe	15.00
Total disbursements for year	220.61

Henry Armstrong, district treasurer.

One disbursement listed is unheard of in this generation—"Paid to Karelius Martinson (grandfather of Ruth, Bennie and Bernard Anderson) for Breaking Fire Guard, $4.00. The order issued to Mr. Martinson on December 29, 1876 is in the book but because of lack of funds was not paid until June 6, 1877.

Summary of disbursements for 1877:

Paid for teacher's wages	$85.15
Paid for repairs and improving grounds	3.80
Paid for other purposes	1.07
Total	92.02
Cash on hand at end of year	35.35

Henry Armstrong, district treasurer.

Henry Armstrong served as treasurer for two years and in 1878 was replaced by his cousin, Harvey D. Armstrong. Incidentally, the probable reason these young single men were chosen for this office is that they could speak and write English. In 1878 the teacher, Alice Hubbard, received $76.00 and in 1879 she received $89.00. In 1879 we note that some improvements were made on the school building. This included building a chimney, plastering, repairs, and installing a blackboard.

An interesting item is "May 1, 1879—expenses of law suit of Van Loon—$20.55". The judgment was for damage and costs amounting to $37.60. The following men in the district—Andrew Oleson, Charles Anderson, Erick Erickson, (Kirkhus) Bord Olson, John Moberg, Sam Johnson, John Johnson, J. S. Barnett, Henry Armstrong, Harvey D. Armstrong, and F. A. Barager, each contributed $1.50 to help pay the expenses of $20.55 for the purpose of defending the district. The outcome is not mentioned.

In 1898 a new schoolhouse was built. Total disbusements for that year, including $152.00 as teacher's wages, were $1,014.54.

The old school building was sold to Ole Mathiason who moved it to his farm where it is still a part of the farm home.

From this time on for many years the enrollment of pupils numbered from thirty to forty-three. The length of the school term varied, often only three months. In 1882 Emma Nason was the teacher with an enrollment of thirty-two. In 1888 Henry Armstrong took a course "as they couldn't find a teacher throughout the district," and became the teacher at a salary of $27.00 for the three months. "Teacher on two weeks trial and if satisfactory will finish term." Twenty-four pupils enrolled. Spring term April 8 to June 28—Minnie Holden, teacher $30.00 a month, twenty-seven pupils enrolled—year not given.

1877—Teacher, Nellie Golden, term beginning October 17 for four or five months. Enrollment of seventeen. A note made in records of one family having typhoid fever so families are afraid to send children to school. Spring term, same year, same teacher. Enrollment twenty-nine. Another note—"Sad lack of books which places teacher in very bad place for parents expect their children to learn whether they have books or not."

1889-90—Teacher, Lillian Knight, enrollment thirty-three. Trustees, O. Eddy, K. Martinson, H. D. Armstrong.

1890 Spring term May 5 through June 27, Ethel Thorne, teacher. Her first term and doing well. Some of the boys think play is more important than study. Attendance, twenty pupils.

1890-91—Term began November 12 for four months. Teacher, Emma McCoy. Enrollment twenty-three. Trustees, O. J. Eddy, K. Martinson and H. D. Armstrong.

Through the years there were continuous improvements in the school building. Many boys and girls, men and women of this district can carry fond memories with them. In 1956 District 10 consolidated with the Murdock Public School so now all pupils are transported to Murdock. The school building became the Louriston Township Hall.

District No. 36 had its first school in a granary on the Swen E. Mattson (M. G. Mattson) place. School was also held on the A. P. Goranson farm (now occupied by George Mattson). Many young men from Sweden went to school here. Children from District 47, also attended school in District 36 before their home district was fully organized. Ida Morey was the first teacher. The district was organized in 1878. The school house was built in 1880, a frame building 20'x28' at a cost of about $450. Alfred G. Johnson was the teacher in 1882. Enrollment, 15 pupils.

1887—N. P. Swanson, teacher—Salary, $28.00—Enrollment, 30 pupils. Open prairie, no trees. Well on grounds. Pupils speak English on playground. Spring term—May 5 to June 22nd, same teacher—Enrollment, 35 pupils are gaining rapidly in speaking English.

In 1888—Term November 5 to December 28. N. P. Swanson, teacher. Enrollment, 33.

1889—Spring term February 8 to June 7th. Same teacher—Salary $30. Many pupils kept out to herd cattle and to do other work. A fine job of tree planting on Arbor Day. Two rows of trees planted.

1889—Fall—Term October 7 to December 28, enrollment 32. Teacher, Maggie Ward. Trustees, S. E. Mattson; A. P. Swanson, Peter Olson.

1890—Spring term, enrollment, 40. Appearance of school good but pupils speak too loud. Trustees, Henry Neal, A. P. Swanson, and Peter Olson.

1890-91—Ida Holmblad, teacher. Enrollment started at 10, then increased to 30 pupils.

This is the last district in Louriston to close (1961). They now transport their pupils to Maynard.

According to immediate records available, District 38 was organized in 1878. The school house, 20'x30' was built in 1879 at a cost of about $500 for all buildings by John Kavanaugh, Sr.

First records show 1882—Alice Hubbard, teacher. Enrollment 18 pupils. "Scholars busy and teacher active and enthusiastic. U. S. History is being used instead of the new readers; the sensitiveness against fairy tales, etc., being the cause for such a step. I am sorry because we have such poor reading books." (Quote from reference).

This picture was taken in District 36 when Miss Ella Eddy was the teacher (no date given). On the extreme right a part of the Christmas Tree and decorations can be seen. These are the pupils of Miss Eddy's that year. Annie, Harry, and Frank Edberg; Edith and Minnie Freeman; Dorothy and Bertha Freddie; Gust, Amy, Annie, Ida, Raymond, and Agnes Johnson; Victor Almer, and Adolph Olson; Emil Nelson; Ida, Enock, and Adolph Swanson; Annie, Olga, Ole, and Ernie Sunset; Oscar and Ada Sell; Harry, Einar, and Eddie Youngman.

Other early Dist. 38 teachers recalled are: Selma Lund, Nettie Benson, Ruth Schellgren, Hilda Hauglund. 1895-96—Lucy Lewis, teacher. Special meeting to raise $240 expenses for the year. One trustee was J. H. Lewis. Some pupil's surnames are: Baden, Foley, Gustaf Lundberg, Vadnais, Brandt.

1897—Teacher, L. Watkins; 1905, teacher, Iona Felenzer. Some pupils listed: Clemmer, Vadnais, Emery and Paul Carlson, Walter Carlson, Mary, Rose, and James Foley, Katie and Albert Brooks, and John LaSell.

1906-07, teacher, Selvia Bay.

1909—teacher, Selma Heglund. Some pupils were: Grace Lewis, Daniel Klemmer, Theodore Lindstrom, Evangeline Lundberg, Sarah Vadnais, Ruby Carlson, Paul Kief, Florence Vadnais, Phillip Kief, Youngrens and Brooks.

Other teachers were: Lulu Whitlock, E. A. Lund, Addie Miller, Edith Crandall, Eleanora Swenson, Hannah Mork, Miss Lindstrom, Alfie Engstad, Velma Wik, O. Person, Gladys Pavlick, Ethel Westberg, Elizabeth Schmoker, Jennie Stokke, LaRayne Ruppert, Katheryn Foley, and Edna Paulsrud. We do not have the list of teachers from 1950 to 56.

Some of the names of school board members in District 38 are: J. H. Lewis, Frank Carlson, Phillip Kief, Fred Johnson, Erick Erickson, O. E. Erickson, Louis Vadnais, Theodore Johanson, Wm. Foley, Walter Carlson, Emery E. Carlson, Enno Christians, Conrad Rozenboom.

The school district consolidated with Murdock in 1956 so now all pupils are transported. The school building has been removed and a modern home built on the site by Charles Rozenboom in 1962.

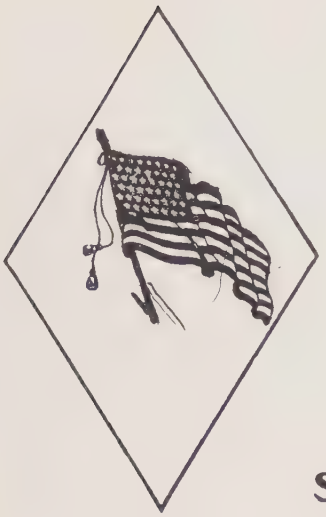
By the way, an old timer, who was a pupil in that district, remembers the time the teacher and pupils planted trees around on the school yard. In planting one of those trees, a large bottle containing some school records was covered and buried among the tree roots. Was this ever found?

So far, we are not sure of the exact date when District 47 was organized. The first school was held in homes in Sections 26 and 27. One notation made in 1892—"1st term of school in district, so children are rather backward. Lennie Watkins, teacher. Enrollment, 8."

Surnames of some of the former pupils in this district are: Condon, Ruddy, Schneider, Coleman, West, Petersen, Strom, McMahon, Tebben, Anderson, Lorz, Wachsman, Williams, Nelson, Knockenmus, Adelman, Colson, Muller, Johnson, Bluhm, Stutelberg, and Thayer.

The following is a list of some of the teachers: Lennie Watkins, George Watkins, Oscar Strom, Annie Martinson, Lydia Altmann, Irma Gallagher, Miss Callahan, Mr. Fuller, Hilda Gippe (later County Superintendent of Schools), and Mrs. Ed Harker.

From the year 1916 on the list of teachers is quite complete and as follows: Minnie Anderson, Esther Foster, Norah Iverson, Esther Saterlee, Jennie Tilbury, Anna Neal, Mary Wentzel, Nettie Lorz, Annette Norrander, Evon Caldwell, Lucile Underwood, Mae Syde, Phyllis Froland, Eileen Meechem, Agnes Bryce and Opal Barringer, Edla Olson, Nettie Prekker, Vantyne Wulling, Jane Grussing, and Mae Lloyd.



A School Remembrance

"Liberty and Justice to All"

"Lest we forget our school associates this souvenir with best wishes is presented to you by your teacher", Sunnyside School District 47, May 11, 1918, Minnie M. Anderson, Teacher. School board: Christ Petersen, Director; R. M. Lorz, Clerk; August Anderson, Treasurer.

List of Pupils: Clara Anderson; Rosie, Bernard, Margaret, Edwin, Henry, and Ellen Coleman; Edna, Olga, Leonard, Violet, and Walter Colson; Annie and George Edelmann; Clarice, Renetta, and Ottmar Lorz; Robert, Cora, Lilly, and Nellie Petersen; Willie Wachsmann; John and Kasjen Tebben; Charles and Samuel Schneider.

Often the teachers and pupils would put on programs with basket socials in the fall, a Christmas program, and often some kind of entertainment the last day of school in the spring usually the middle of May. Shown in this picture is a scene from the dramatization of "Hiawatha". Pictures are, back row: Charles Schneider, Ottmar Lorz, Cora Petersen, Ellen Coleman, Clara Anderson. Front row: Willie Wachsman, Henry Coleman, Bernard Coleman, Renetta Lorz, and Violet Colson.

Pictured here are the girls in District 47 when Miss Phyllis Froland was teacher in 1939. They are: Back row, Joyce Petersen, Betty Williams, Irene Nelson, Anna Marie Hinrichs; Front row, Bonnie Jean Mattway, Rose Marie Stutelberg, Margaret Nelson, and Phyllis Anderson.

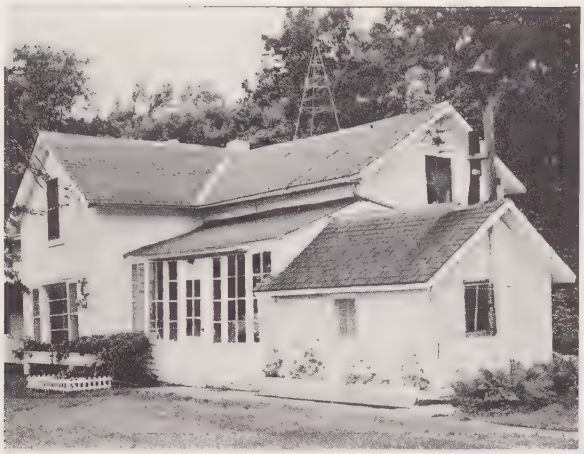
Some of the schoolboard members were: William Strom, C. A. Carlson, R. M. Lorz, W. B. Williams, Alfred Spieker, Koert Tebben, Otto Anderson, Christ Petersen, Alfred Petersen, and Bernt Williams.

In August, 1955, the district dissolved and annexed to District No. 62, Clara City.

Rheiderland Township

Until the year 1885 Rheiderland township was a land of virgin prairie, the range of the buffalo. Few white men had seen it, a surveyor, a few buffalo hunters and cattle herders, and possibly a few others passing through on their way to some populated area. The Erick Erickson family had made themselves a dugout home in what is now Clara City where they lived while hunting buffalo. Another family by the name of Lewis had a dugout home on the land Mrs. Dora Elberts now owns in section 20. Here to our knowledge, the first white child was born, Mabel Lewis. She grew up and became one of the first teachers in the area, married Frank Benson and served for a time as postmistress at Clara City. Whether the Lewis's were buffalo hunters or cattle herders is not known but when settlers came, they also took land and settled. Unknown cattle herders lived on the land now owned by Mrs. Etta Grussing where the Bert Aalfs family

Olga and Lucy Erickson, first residents of Rheiderland.



The Ammerman home, 1886-1963. Room behind porch is that part built by an unknown cattle herder. Now the home of Mrs. Lillie (Ammerman) Scheltens and daughters. Note the bell.

have lived for some time. They built a small one room home which was standing empty when the Ammerman's came in 1885. They pulled it across the prairie to their home site and added on to it from time to time. It is still a part of the home, the family room, now of Mrs. Lillie Scheltens and her daughters Violet and Henrietta. The site of the corral where the cattle were kept, can still be seen for grain still grows six inches taller there and corn yields ten to fifteen bushels an acre more. This was far more noticeable in earlier years when the grain was about a foot taller, making it appear a big step higher in that part of the field.

In 1885 the land company of Prins and Kock purchased 50,000 acres of railroad and State land and sent out agents to interest settlers of German and Holland extraction to come here. The land was offered at $6.50 to $10 an acre, a wonderful inducement for it was expensive in Illinois and Iowa where these people had lived. Mr. W. D. Ammerman of Picatonia, Illinois made arrangements with the firm to act as an assistant in settling the land here with German people, the Dutch to be settled further east. He came here to look over the land and purchased a quarter section from Mr. Hahn, the Prins and Kock agent in Renville. Returning home he set about telling others of the fine opportunities in this new land. Early the next spring, March 16, 1886, Mr. Dick W. Ammerman, his 18-year-old sister Mamie and 14-year-old brother George, came to make improvements and break up the land purchased by their father. They came to Renville by rail with Mr. W. T. Wilson, a carpenter, and had to haul the lumber for their home the 18 miles through sloughs and mud. Old timers say Mr. Ammerman planted about 60 acres of buckwheat that first year. It was threshed with a horse power threshing machine sent from Illinois, which was the first thresher used here.

Shortly after the Ammermans, came Ubbo Brouwer, John Greenfield and Henry Frikke Sr. who each bought a quarter section and prepared to settle here. Mr. Frikke spent the summer digging wells for the settlers, often sleeping on the open prairie at night wherever he was working. Mr. Brouwer stayed with the Ammermans but soon returned to Germany where he married Greitjedina Muller, April 20, 1886. He then brought his bride to Rheiderland to make their home. This summer saw wagon loads of from 16 to 20 men each, coming daily to look at the land. Most of the land in the township was sold in the two years from '86 to '88. The summer of '86 was a dry one, with only three good rains all summer. In the fall the few settlers dug their scanty supply of potatoes and prepared for the long dreary winter that followed. There was no church, no Christmas celebration, no money to spend, and no place within 18 miles to spend it if they had had it.

Things began to pick up in 1887. The W. D. Ammerman family moved out with their stock and supplies. The family of Mr. Frikke arrived from Illinois also. A daughter, Dorothea, was born to the Ubbo Brouwers, March 28, 1887, the first child to be born among the settlers. She is Mrs. Dora Elberts, who lives in Clara City now. The railroad bed was prepared from Willmar running southwest to Sioux Falls giving work to many men. Many settlers came, among them Hey Schah, Fred Freese, John Kuiper, John and Abe Aalfs, E. Klinghagen, H. U. Theesen, Henry Van Hoorn, Harm and John Tebben, Egbert Brouwer, Enno Christians, A. Andresen, Aeise Koenen, Martin Weers, A. Veenstra, J. Meyring, Jake Harms, H. Schrotenboer, B. Warrings, Harm Westendrop, Ben Beekman, L. Beuke, I. Orlebeke, Abe Orlebeke, Henry Hakens, John Knoop, John Caspers, A. F. Peterson and the Sweirs family. The Aeise Koenen, H. Van Hoorn, H. Schrotenboer and H. R. Luitjens families are said to have

The W. D. Ammerman family. Left to right: Dick, Mr. W. D. Ammerman, Lillie (Mrs. Albertus Scheltens), Mrs. Ammerman and Fred. Back: George, Mamie (Mrs. John Kuiper), Grietje (Mrs. Henry Fokken), Annie (Mrs. Ben Huisken).

The Ubbo Brouwer family. Back, left to right: Harry, Egbert, George, Kone U., Swier, Kate, (Mrs. Matt Tebben), Arend, Grace (Mrs. Seiben Tebben). Front: Mr. and Mrs. Brouwer and Dorothea (Mrs. Ben Elberts), the first child born to settlers in Rheiderland Township.

Trientje, Pete, Tjabe, Jennie Fischer, John, Mr. and Mrs. Aeise T. Koenen, Harm A., George A.

come from Iowa in the famed "Prairie Schooners" which differed from covered wagons in that the body or box of the wagon was shaped like a boat, and was built tight so that in crossing rivers and creeks, ponds and sloughs it would float and the contents would stay dry.

The Township of Rheiderland was organized in 1887. Mr. W. D. Ammerman gave it the name of his homeland in Germany. The first annual meeting was held in his home March 15, 1887 and called to order by him. Mr. Wm. Orlebeke was chosen to preside and the following officers were elected: Supervisors, Wm. Orlebeke, H. U. Theesen, D. W. Ammerman; Clerk W. T. Wilson, Treasurer W. D. Ammerman, Justice of the Peace John Orlebeke, constable Henry Frikke.

The Henry Frikke family. Left to right, front: Henry Jr., Henry Sr., John, Mrs. Frikke, Tillie (Mrs. Osmundson). Back: Johannes the first boy born in the township, Minnie (Mrs. Meine Gerdes), Susie (Mrs. J. H. Gruessing), Hannah (Mrs. John Backer) and Annie (Mrs. Henry Sweep).

Johannes Frikke, son of Henry and Swantje Frikke, was the first boy born in the township, where he still lives, and his birth is the first recorded in the new township's books, January 29, 1888. That spring the rails were laid and on July 25th the first train ran from Willmar to Montevideo. It was a great day and the railroad company gave free rides on the first round trip.

On May 14, 1888 the sum of $50 was raised to meet the township expenses. In 1963 $10,000 was raised for the same purpose through taxation of taxable property. On the 24th of July 1888 the township was organized into one school district with the intentions to build four school houses. The first was to be built in the center and the others as needed. This was signed by the following legal voters of Rheiderland: H. W. Berghuis, A. J. Peterson, P. P. Berghuis, J. Ahlfs, Wm. Orlebeke, D. W. Ammerman, Egbert Brouwer, A. Koenen, H. U. Theesen, H. Van Hoorn and Jacob Meyring. John Greenfield, John Orlebeke and Henry Frikke were to go to Montevideo and present a petition for a public school. It was given the number 55.

Further business at the July meeting declared the section lines as public roads. The land road tax had been set the month before at $.75 per $100. Individual chattel mortgages on personal property were recorded by the town clerk. In one instance the following animals were held as a mortgage on a $50 loan: "1 steer, brown color, 2 yrs. old; 1 steer, white color, 2 yrs. old; 1 cow, brown, 7 yrs. old; 1 cow, brown, 4 yrs. old; 1 cow, brown, 3 yrs. old; and 1 horse, brown, 5 yrs. old called Tom."

Assessors fees for the year 1888 for 9 days work and expenses amounted to $18. The township wasn't able to pay the assessor until June 24, 1889. In 1962 $500 was paid the assessor.

At the March 1890 meeting it was ordered that all persons over 21 years of age and under 50, shall work 2 days for poll taxes or pay $3 to the township treasurer. When some family in the township had much sickness and were unable to pay their bills, the bills would be sent to the town clerk and at their regular meeting the Board would allow these bills paid. Of course when bills were sent by residents that were so called, "well-to-do" farmers, they were rejected.

The winter of 1887-88 was a long hard one. Mr. Eilert Klinghagen found snow four feet deep when he got here in the fall. The cows which he had tied behind his prairie schooner all the way from Iowa walked the last ways with their udders dragging in the snow. The thermometers went down to 52° below. Many are the stories of that winter; Mr. H. U. Theesen and Harm Stub left the W. D. Ammerman home against advice while it was snowing. They became lost and traveled in a large circle coming back to the Ammermans a few hours later. Mr. Theesen's mustasche and beard had frozen into a huge lump of ice and Mr. Stub's face was badly frozen. They were content to stay there then until the storm was over and they had recovered from their experince. Mr. Dieter Wemmering, who helped Henry Frikke with well digging and stayed at his home, and John Greenfield left the Frikkes late one afternoon to go to Orlebekes. Shortly after they left, a sudden snow storm came up. When the storm let up Mr. Frikke, worried about their safety, set out for the Orlebekes to see if they had arrived. The wind was still too strong and cold to face so he held a scoop shovel to shield his face. Upon arriving at the Orlebekes he found the men had not come there so the neighbors set out to search for them. Mr. Greenfield was found at the shack of a bachelor, badly frozen but alive. They had wandered all night in the storm, then Mr. Wemmering, who was a heavier man, became so exhausted from breaking through the snow that he could go on no longer. His body was found in a slough. The settlers were watchful for each other and after storms would check on each other to see that all was well. One such good neighbor came to the Fred R. Freese home one day and wondered at the wild waving he saw at the house. Mr. Freese came out and called to him to move his team he was on top of the barn! Thev made a tunnel through the drift to get into the barn to care for the stock. Many times this was not even possible. Mr. E. Klinghagen came to see how the Ammermans had fared after the March 12 storm and found the place completely covered.

Mamie (Kuiper) said they had to climb 12 steps from their door to the top of the snow drift. The barn was so badly snowed in they cut a hole in the roof to let water down to the cattle, and thru which they could go in to care for them.

Mr. Jacob Meyering had a store in Prinsburg and weekly brought supplies to the Ammerman home for the settlers in this area. They were just the very necessities, salt for one thing. Meat was here for the taking, prairie chicken, wild ducks and geese, rabbits and fish. A supply was "salted down" for the winter. Barley was roasted and ground for coffee and "Prairie tea" was made from an herb that grew wild. Grain was taken on long tedious trips to a mill usually in Renville to be ground into flour but in an emergency it was ground in coffee mills, too. Mrs. Lillie (Ammerman) Scheltens recalls that when she was a small girl her sisters, Mamie and Gritje, had to peel potatoes each day for a large iron kettle full, for noone knew how many people there might be at the next meal. The settlers were most hospitable and took in any who happened to be there at meal time, or when evening came. Since W. D. Ammerman was the land company's assistant, kept store after a fashion, cared for the spiritual needs of his neighbors, was prominent in the township and school affairs, his place was an especially busy one. Mounted on the end of his house was a bell which called the neighbors to services, or to fight a prairie fire, or to proclaim anything unusual. It is still there.

Before long the problems of civilization plagued the settlers. In 1896 we find the names of 39 men listed in the town records for "pulling mustard on said farm by order of the weed agent of Township of Rheiderland according to the noxious weed law of 1895 under the direction of the chairman of the board of supervisors of said Township." They were paid from 7½ to 12½ cents an hour. In the 1962 joint annual weed inspection report there were approximately 80 privately owned sprayers being used in the township to combat nine different varieties of noxious weeds.

The following have served as town clerks from 1887 to 1963: W. T. Wilson, H. W. Berghuis, Jacob Meyring, R. C. Arnold, H. U. Theesen, Henry Fokken, Henry Frikke Sr., John Barney, Henry Peters and Maynard Fokken. The Assessors have been: Peter P. Berghuis, John Greenfield, H. U. Theesen, Fred Freese, R. D. Seitsema, Johan Ulferts, I. O. Kray, Wm. Caspers, Joe Caspers, Herman Wearda, George Zimmer, Fred Grussing, Ulfert Ulferts, Henry Fokken, Koene A. Brouwer, H. H. Grussing and Calvin Tebben. The treasurers were W. D. Ammerman, D. Retzema, A. F. Peterson, Weert Willms, Henry Eckhoff, Swier Brouwer, Henry Fokken, Henry Bohlsen Jr., Dan Dannen, John Ammerman Marvin Bohlsen, and Wm. G. Ammerman. The supervisors for these same years have been Wm. Orlebeke, H. U. Theesen, D. W. Ammerman, Fred Freese, A. F. Peterson, Taujes Voss, E. H. Erickson, E. Klinghagen, Wm. O. Reints, Henry Frikke Sr., Joe Jacobs, L. W. Gerzema, H. W. Berghuis, Wm. Holthuis, John Caspers, George Kray, Reinke Ulferts, Harm Tebben, Fritz Grussing, Hye Jurgena, George Van Hove, Martin Bush. R. D. Sitsema, Bert Scheltens, E. J. Peterson, Fred D. Ammerman, Albert Bohlsen, Charley Schwitters, Herman Wearda, Meint Gerdes, K. U. Brouwer, John A. Koenen, George A. Bohlsen, Nan G. Ammerman, Enno Gerdes, Henry A. Grussing, Maynard Ammerman, Russell Taatjes, and Alvin Brouwer. The present are Henry A. Grussing, Chairman, Russell Taatjes and Alvin Brouwer supervisors, Maynard Fokken clerk, Wm. G. Ammerman treasurer and Calvin Tebben assessor.

By reading the minutes of the records of these early years one can believe in the saying that hardship develops character. The first settlers had plenty of them, but they enjoyed their blessings and spent little time counting their troubles. They were generally peaceable, but had a stubborn determination to succeed in the things they believed were just and right. Their aims in life for their new country were honorable.

The first death recorded in the township books was that of Jacob Erickson, the 11 month 4 day old son of the Erick Ericksons who lived in a dugout in what is now Clara City. He died April 30, 1888. Almost a year passed before there was another entry, that of Peter Berghuis, grandfather of the Peter Berghuis of Clara City today. He had been digging a well and a stone fell off the bucket as it was being hoisted from the well. It struck him at the base of the brain as he was stooped over to fill another bucket. He was removed from the well and rushed to Willmar on the railroad handcar, operated by Sander Luurs, but to no avail. The records gave as the cause of death, "head hurt." The date was January 24, 1889.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Berghuis came to eastern Rheiderland in '87 or '88. With them was their son Hinderk W. who had been born in the Netherlands and was about five years old and some of the other children who had been born near Orange City, Iowa where the family had lived for a time. There was Ann who married a John Bosch and went to Washington to live. Cornelius or Neal or C. as he was called at different times was a school teacher and then editor of the Clara City Herald. Jacob was a storekeeper until he went to Edgerton and bought a farm. Pete was born here and was educated at Wheaton College. The children of Henry W. have lived around here, Ada (Mrs. (Woltper), in St. Paul, Pete in Clara City, Annie (Mrs. R. Poortinga of Willmar), Jacob of Prinsburg, Abe also, Harry farmed in Rheiderland, Ida (Mrs. John DeVries of Willmar), Mabel (Mrs. VanVugt of Willmar), Lester and Neal.

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Tebben Sr. and son Conrad C. standing. Note wooden pump.

The story of most of our pioneers begins in Germany. There in 1834 in Ostfriesland were born Conrad Tebben and Elizabeth Frieling who married in 1857. To them were born five children, Kasjen, Harm Frieling, John, Elizabeth and Conrad C. Kasjen married Siemtje Kuehlers and Elizabeth Eilert Klinghagen in 1881. Two years later Harm came to America going to Sac County, Iowa. The next year, 1884, the rest of the family, except Kasjen, including the Klinghagens came also. In 1887 Mr. Conrad Tebben, his sons John and Harm and Eilert Klinghagen bought farms in Rheiderland. Harm with four good work horses and a wagon with a plow tied to it came to plow the farms. With him on the trip were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Van Horn and Harm Stub. Mr. Stub led the way on a saddle horse and scouted for routes to take and places to cross streams. Harm plowed the prairie land for all of

them, and "back plowed." This second plowing was not necessary as so many cattle roamed the land that the sod was well broken up. He was to have gone back to Iowa in the fall but Mr. Van Horn broke his leg so he stayed, and worked hard to get proper shelter ready for winter. There was no Clara City and no railroad until another year. That fall Eilert Klinghagen and his brother George, and John Tebben came across country, arriving after snow had come. In the spring of 1888 Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Tebben, their son Conrad C. who was then 14 and Elizabeth (Mrs. Eilert Klinghagen) and her four small children: Conrad, who was a partner in Steffens and Klinghagen's store, Symka (Mrs. Robert Goldenstein), Henry father of Elizabeth (Mrs. Kasjen Muller) and Matthew who passed away the first year, came by train to Renville. Children born here are: Elizabeth (Mrs. Heiko Goldenstein), Eilert Jr., Mattie (Mrs. Casper Asche), George and Gasjen Klinghagen. Conrad C. Tebben was one of the first pupils to attend the public school in Clara City. The family was among the first members of the Bethany church.

Grandpa and Grandma Tebben were very active in those days. They would walk to town when stores had been established, with a basket in arm with a small jar of butter in one end and a few dozen eggs in the other to trade in for groceries and tobacco and sometimes a new corn cob pipe. In 1903 their eldest son Kasjen, father of Anna (Mrs. Joe Muller), Koert, Conrad K., Matt, Sieben, Rev. Kasjen, and Elizabeth (Mrs. William Fokken) arrived from Germany with his family. Conrad C., who had married Antje Brummer in 1897 (parents of Mrs. Phillip Behrends, Florence, Conrad Jr. and Ben) took over the farm when his parents retired to the old church parsonage then located by the Bethany cemetery. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in the spring of 1907 with all their children present. Mr. Tebben passed away in March 1909 and Mrs. Tebben went to live with her daughter and family until her death in October 1913.

The children of Harm Tebben are Elizabeth (Mrs. H. H. Grussing), Conrad H., Mrs. Charlie Buss, Herman and Dick. John Tebben's family include Conrad J., Remmer, John M., Sophie (Mrs. Meint Fuls), Elizabeth (Mrs. Ralph Gerdes) and Bertha (Mrs. Sam Ruschen). It is interesting to note how the names are repeated in each family. Each son named a daughter for his mother, and a son for his father adding his own initial to distinguish them. We find this was a common practice.

This is evident in the Brouwer family also. Ubbo Brouwer came here in 1886, followed in 1887 by his brother Egbert. In 1892 Egbert went back to the old country. His family stayed here since Mrs. Brouwer had had all of the ocean she wanted. Her first husband had been a sailor and she had sailed with him. In a bad storm in the North Sea their ship was wrecked. Her husband lost his life. It took a good deal of persuasion to get her to this country and once here she never left again. Mr. Brouwer wrote he was bringing his father Kone, and brother Arend back with him since his mother had passed away, also the Heinrick Bohlsen and William Schmidt families. Mrs. Brouwer took stock of her small house wondering how it could hold that many people until other homes could be made ready for them. She called upon her carpenter neighbor, J. J. Aalfs, to build a lean to the house. It was here Henry Bohlsen was born shortly after his parents arrival in 1892. So now Kone Brouwer and his three sons, Arend, Egbert and Ubbo were reunited. Each son named a son Kone and in our telephone directory now we have Kone A., Kone E. and Kone U. Brouwer. That custom is repeated in many families, the Robert Gerdes, Herman Meyer, Harry Meyer, Nan Fokken, Ammermans and innumerable others. The Ubbo Brouwer children all married and remained close by and are the only family of the charter members of the Bunde Church that have remained as a complete unit and reared their families in that church. The Egbert Brouwer children are: Kone E., Jennie (Mrs. Nan Fokken) and Katie (Mrs. Enno Gerdes). Deceased are Grace (Mrs. John Zimmer), Swata (Mrs. Simon Zimmer) and Dora (Mrs. Tade Andresen). Arend Brouwers had Kone A. and Dora the late Mrs. Hans Zimmer.

The Egbert Brouwer family. Mr. Egbert Brouwer, Kone E., Jennie (Mrs. Nan Fokken), Mrs. Brouwer with Katie (Mrs. Enno Gerdes) on her lap, Swata (Mrs. Simon Zimmer). Standing behind: Grace (Mrs. John Zimmer) and Dora (Mrs. Tade Andresen).

Another Ostfriesland family, Dick Feerds Haken and his wife (Antje Wolring) and their children Hinderk Wolbertus, Gehard Ahlrick, Gesienus Anneus, Geeske and Jantje came to the U.S. in 1883. After a year in Illinois and three more in Iowa they came to the Bunde neighborhood where Gesienus and Hinderk farmed a half section west of the Bunde church. In 1890 Geeske was married to Harm Tebben and in 1894 Gesienus married Kasina Aikens and Jantje was married to Fred Ammerman. Gesienus lived on the farm now owned by Dick Tebben, and occupied by the Gordon Grussings, until he moved to Marshall, Oklahoma. Jantje died very young leaving two small children, the late Wm. Ammerman of Roseland and Jennie, Mrs. Gerrit Asche of Willmar. Gerhard had been teaching school in Germany and studied for the ministry when he came to the United States. In 1895 he married Henniune Evers who died in 1914. In 1916 he married Mrs. Elmer Meier. He served churches at Holstein, Wisc., Kings, Ill., Chanceler, S.D., and Titonka, Iowa. He served 26 years at the East Church and in his retirement lived at Sioux Falls, S.D. The apple orchard Henry planted is still productive on the place that Boyd Folkerts bought recently. People still remember the bees he kept, and his chivalrous placing of a step stool and assisting his mother from their "high wheeler" car in the early 1900's.

Mr. A. F. Peterson, a brother-in-law of W. D. Ammerman, and his brother Jacob, bought Section 29 in 1887. Dick Ammerman plowed some of its for them that fall and early the next spring. Mr. A. F. Peterson and his sons Fred and Euje came from Nebraska. They stored household goods in the granary at Ammermans until they were ready for it. Lillie Scheltens remembers peeking at it and admiring Greitje's doll with a china head, a treasure for a little girl in those days. Mrs. Peterson, Greitje and the baby Jacob came later in the summer. In 1893 Euje Peterson married Hilka Fokken. They lived on the farm that their grandson Orrin Brouwer now occupies. To them was born Elizabeth (Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs. Andreas F. Peterson, Fred, Euje, Grietje (Mrs. John J. Scheltens) and Jacob on his mother's lap.

Kone U. Brouwer), Annie (Mrs. Swier Brouwer), Grace (Mrs. George Bohlsen), Nann of Raymond, Ella (Mrs. Herman Williams), Jeanette (Mrs. Kone A. Brouwer), and Hilda (Mrs. Helmer Nieuwbeerta). Fred Peterson married Wopka Freese January 8, 1896. They lived in the same section until their retirement to Clara City where they still reside, the oldest couple in town! Their children are Ralph, Grace (Mrs. Gerit Hoogheim), Mrs. Jennie Hoogheim, Mattie (Mrs. Ted Koenen), Elizabeth, Andrew, Tillie (Mrs. Jake Freese), Io and Chris. Io passed away in 1959. Greitje married John J. Scheltens in 1900 and lived in the same section as her brothers for a time until they moved to the Scheltens home in Lone Tree. Jacob married Theda Fischer in 1926 and lived on the other quarter in section 29. Their daughters are Elizabeth (Mrs. Derald Schneider) and Wilma (Mrs. Bernell Schneider).

The first wedding in the township in 1888 was probably that of Dick W. Ammerman and Helene Jansen, daughter of the H. U. Theesens, who came here in 1887 only shortly after the Ammermans. They made their home where grandson Robert Ammerman lives. To them were born 6 boys, William, Paul, Fred, Harry, George and Theobold and 5 girls, Tomke (Mrs. Herman Wearda), Trena (Mrs. John Enninga), Annetta (Mrs. Ben Tebben), Tillie (Mrs. Amos Duininck) and Hilda (Mrs. John Marcus). Dick was a progressive man who was a real pioneer, trying out steam engines, threshers, cars, etc. The Theesen boys, Seifried and John were natural mechanics and of an inventive mind. Only one sister Thoma (Mrs. Ted Diekman) lives from that family. Fred Ammerman married Jennie Haken in 1889. She passed away after a few years leaving two children, William and Jennie. (Mrs. G. T. Asche). His widowed mother, cared for them until in 1898 Fred married Gertie Fokken. Together they built up the place on which son Richard F. Ammerman now lives. To them were born Anna (Mrs. William Hoekstra), Trena (Mrs. Garbrand Peters), Nan F., Richard F., Maynard and Rev. Harvey Ammerman. Mrs. Ammerman passed away Feb. 2, 1923. Two years later he married Mrs. John Emmen who survived when he died October 25, 1948. George Ammerman married Janna Fokken in 1894. Their children are Trena (Mrs. Rev. Kasjen Tebben), Nan G., Annie (Mrs. Henry Goldenstein), Mamie (Mrs. Fred Santjer), William G. and John Ammerman. He died in 1923 and his wife in 1937. Nan G. lives on the home place. Mamie Ammerman married John Kuiper in 1889. They farmed here for two years then near Sauk Rapids for eight, returning to Clara City living where the Robert Goldenstein and Al Weflen homes are now. They were blessed with ten daughters, all of whom received a good education and most of whom were teachers. They are Tillie (Mrs. Sowaske of Eau Claire, Wis.), Katie (Mrs. Uttermark of St. Paul), Flossie (Mrs. Woods of St. Paul) Gretta (Mrs. Haveie of Finland, Minn.), Jessie (Mrs. K. E. Tolian of Fairmont, Minn.), Annie (Mrs. B. A. Behrends of Clara Citv), Mamie (Mrs. B. M. Himle of Montevideo), Lillie (Mrs. J. L. Jones of Montevideo), Jennie (Mrs. Ted Bagares of Summit, S.D.), and Ruth (Mrs. Ivan Walstrom of St. Paul). Mr. Kuiper passed away in 1924 and Mrs. in 1931. Five of the daughters are widowed A family reunion is held almost every year and the group now numbers around a hundred. Greitje Ammerman married Henry Fokken Dec. 29,

This plow was bought by Dick Ammerman and set up in Clara City but it was too wide to go over any of the bridges so it had to be dismantled and reassembled at the farm. It did not prove to be too successful so was used but a short time. But it looked like a good idea and Dick was willing to give it a try. He stands at the far left, then son George, Ralph Freese, Theobold on the tank wagon, William D. and Paul on the steam engine.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kuiper, Ruth and Jennie, behind them Annie, Mamie, Jessie, Tillie, Katie, Greta, Lillie and Flossie.

1892. Two of their ten children died in infancy. The others are Nan, William, Annie (Mrs. Conrad J. Tebben), Trena (Mrs. Remmer Tebben), Jennie (Mrs. Henry Peters), Mamie (Mrs. John Peters), Maynard and Tillie (Mrs. Clarence Taatjes). Mrs. Fokken passed away in 1912 and Mr. in 1943. Annie Ammerman married Ben Huiskens and they made their home in Edgerton, Minn. Lillie married Albertus Scheltens August 30, 1901. They have made their home in the original Ammerman home. To them were born William, Henrietta, Mae and Violet. Mr. Scheltens passed away in 1951 and Mae, who was a beloved schoolteacher, in 1961.

The Fred R. Freese family with the Andres Andresen family came here in 1887 in covered wagons with particularly well built, tight wagon boxes. Since there were no bridges the creeks had to be forded. In crossing one that was deeper than they had expected the wagon box in which Mrs. Andresen was riding floated off the wagon and headed down stream. Alarmed, Mr. Andresen called to the others "Dar geit mein Sarah." The Freeses have heard their elders tell it so many times they will always remember Mrs. Andresen's name. Fred Freeses had three children, Mrs. Tillie Dannen, Cordie who died in 1897, and Carrie (Sister M. Ulrica). The mother died in 1894. In 1898 Fred married a neighbor girl, Katherine Schulte to whom was born Lizzie Zeller, Angeline Ashton, Ralph and

Mr. and Mrs. Fred R. Freese, Harvey and Ben A., behind them: Angeline Ashton, Carrie (Sister M. Ulrica), Tillie Dannen, Ralph and Lizzie Zeller.

One of the first cars: Albert Jurgena driving, Henry beside him. Mr. Heye Jurgena and Joe in the rear seat.

The Heye Jurgena family came from Iowa in 1892. Mr. Jurgena came across country with a light wagon and some of the household goods—the sewing machine for one thing. He had tied Albert's wagon under the wagon and in some way it was lost enroute, quite a loss to a small boy! The story goes that he became impatient with wandering around sloughs all the time and ended by going through them if he could walk through them. Mrs. Jurgena with Annie, Flora (Mrs. George Gerdes), Nettie (Mrs. Joe Frikke) and Albert came by train to Renville. Henry and Joe were born there.

Mr. and Mrs. John Knoop and Lammert, Maggie, Ella and Brown.

The John Knoop family moved into Rheiderland in 1888 but had lived three years a mile NW of Clara City where Maggie and Ella were born. The other children, Lammert, Brown, Grace, John and Georgia were born in Rheiderland. Mrs. Knoop died in 1905 and he Feb. 28, 1927 at the age of 61.

The Enno Christians family came from Iowa to farm where Art Deiken now lives, about 1887 or 88. Here they brought up and educated their eleven children: George, Dick (deceased), Garrit, Dena (Mrs. John Leipold), John, Jennie (Mrs. Henry Stutelberg) Maggie (Mrs. Ed Prekker), Annie (Mrs. Ben Hendrickson), Jessie (Mrs. John Stutelberg), Bill and Kate (Mrs. Jack Saathoff).

August Niemeyer bought a quarter in section 4 in 1888. Alone he planted his grove and orchard and built buildings. In 1890 he married Sophia Hayenga, who with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kasjen Hayenga and family came here in 1889. To them were born Justine (Mrs. John Lepler), Kasjen, Henry, August and Irene (Mrs. Ralph J. Fischer).

In 1921 Mr. and Mrs, Neimeyer retired to Clara City. A grandson, Harold Neimeyer now lives on the farm.

Heinrick and Margaretta Bohlsen sold their farm in Germany in 1892 and came to America with their two children, Almina and Albert. They bought the farm on which son Henry still lives. Their other children are Henry, George, Martin, Trina (Mrs. Nan G. Ammerman, deceased) and Ella (Mrs. George Duin).

John J. and Hilka Ahlfs bought the SW quarter of section 15 in 1886. Being a carpenter by trade he was much in demand in this new country. How he ever found time to do any farming is a mystery as one reads of all the building he did. His wife died in 1900 and three years later he moved to town. Kone U. Brouwer bought the farm and reared his family there. Lester Brouwer is the present owner. The Ahlfs children are Adolph, Christian, Dena (Mrs. Henry Schwitters), Trena (Mrs. Hempen) and Jacob.

Mr. and Mrs. John Barney bought the NW quarter in section 21 in 1900 where they lived and brought up their family, for 36 years before moving to town. He served on the Town Board for most of those years and was active in civic and community affairs. Their children are: Fred. George, Chris, Angeline (Mrs. Harlan Carlson), Herman, Grace (Mrs. Herman Schneider), Richard, John, Gerd and Albert.

Mr. and Mrs. David Davids and their sons John and Elso came to the Clara City area in 1889 or 90. With them was a little girl who they cared for and who later married their son John. John recalled coming with some of the family belongings and had to lay over in St. Paul so he camped under the Minnesota Transfer bridge. The Davids bought up several farms, the one on which Ben Davids now lives, the farm south of Highway 7 and the farm now owned by the Condons just west of town. The winters were so severe and they tell of becoming lost going to their nearest neighbor. The John Davids had two children, Kathryn Wright of St. Paul and David J. of Minneapolis. Elso Davids married Henrietta Brummer and they had three children, Hilda (Mrs. Wm. Janssen), Ben and Rev. David Davids of California.

Heinrick and Heidena (Jurgena) Grussing were born and married in Derten O Leha, a small village near Leer, Ostfriesland, Germany. He was a country butcher there for many years. In 1890 they came to America settling first in Bunker Hill, Ill., across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Mo. Two years later, 1892, they moved to a farm in Rheiderland now occupied by a granddaughter and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Taatjes. The family was blessed with nine children, three of whom died young in a black diphtheria plague which took many lives in Germany. Heinrich, the eldest son, stayed in Germany until 1908 when he and one son came, the rest of the family following the next year. He had five children, Henry H. of Clara City, Heiko of Cedar Mills, Hanah (Mrs. Henry Gretsfeld) of West St. Paul, Minnie (Mrs. Reents) in Ill., and William in Wisconsin. Albert came to America in 1888, married Almina Bohlsen and to them were born Dena (Mrs. Henry Wubben), Verna (Mrs. Robert M. Gerdes), Henry A., Martin A., and Alvin, and Marian (Mrs. Clayton Maas), Jantje Grussing married George Overlander. Their son William was the one who was "looking thru the files" and giving us all the interesting news items of by-gone days. They also had Henry, Dena (Mrs. J. Henry Klinghagen of Kerkhoven), Fred, Jennie (Mrs. Grover Mersbergen of Raymond), George and John, Frauke married John Peters. Eight of their nine children live, one boy died when he was small. They are Stina (Mrs. Henry Bohlsen), Dena (Mrs. Martin Bohlsen), Garbrand, Henry, John, Fannie (Mrs. Herman Schwitters), Jessie (Mrs. Fred Andresen) and George who lives in Washington. George lived in the state of Maryland and so do his six children, George, Charles. Mary, Ada, Jenie and John. Fred married Etta Wearda and brought up his family on the home farm. They are Dena at home with her mother, George Paul, Lawrence, Etta (Mrs. Martin Meyer), Jeanette (Mrs. Russell Taatjes) of Clara City area, Lena (Mrs. Richard Grussing) of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Johannes, a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church is deceased leaving his widow, the former Susie Frikke and an adopted son Richard. Henry R. was electrocuted when he was repairing a telephone line and accidentally contacted the electric line.

In March 1890 the Poppo Wearda family came to live close by the Grussings. With seven other families they loaded their belongings and stock on box cars in Illinois, the families traveling in an old passenger coach attached to the end of the freight train. The trip took four nights and three days, a wonderful time for the children but quite a chore for their mothers to cook and care for them. The Wearda children were Montje, Herman, Ed, Lena (Mrs. Wm. F. Ammerman) and Etta (Mrs. Fred Grussing) who alone survives at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Steffens bought the farm that is now owned by Yocks and occupied by Harry H. Meyer, after having rented a farm in Crate since 1891 when they came here from Illinois where Mr.

The Heinrick Grussing family. Left to right, front: Heinrick the son, Mr. and Mrs. Heinrick Grussing, Jantje (Mrs. George Overlander). Back: Albert, Johannes, Fred, George, Frauka (Mrs. John Peters).

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Steffens, Louis, Anna (Mrs. Jack Stager) Chris, John.

Steffens had worked at ditching and laying tile since coming from Germany in 1885. Louis, Anna and John came here from Illinois but Herman Christover was born here. He was the first boy to graduate from the Clara City High School. In 1910, the family sold their farm and moved to town where Mr. Steffens bought an interest in a General Merchandise store from E. E. Yock and it became Steffens and Klinghagen. Mr. Steffens was interested in the co-op movement and helped organize the Telephone Co., Farmer's Elevator, Crate Farm Mutual Fire Ins., Co. They were very active in the Lutheran church. Mrs. Steffens died in 1937 and he the following year. Anna married Jack Stager and had one son, Leroy.

In 1892 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kray came to Rheiderland to make their home. They came from Webster City, Iowa but originally from Germany. Their children were Io, George (father of Hanno, George, Fred and John), Emko, John, Margaret (Mrs. Gretus Janssen) and Winnie.

There are many more that could and should be mentioned—there are two Gerzma sisters living, Mrs. Etta Ulferts and Mrs. Joe Bush. Jennie Poortvleit Plowman lives in Roseland, John Duininck and his son Stanley and family live on the home place while brothers Henry, Amos and Wilbur live in Prinsburg. The names of Hoff, Caspers, Bruns, Broers, Wiersum, Skonberg and Mettlecamp are not forgotten.

Rheiderland had one of the first 4-H Clubs. Mrs. Nan G. Ammerman and Mrs. Fred Aeikens were the leaders. The Rheiderland Winners won many State Fair trips, always exhibited at the County Fair and had the County Trophy. In 1939 George Ammerman won a State Fair trip with purebred gilts. Lydia Aeikens won a trip with poultry but was too young to go. They put on a play "Aron Slick from Pumpkin Creek" which was enjoyed in Clara City and Raymond. Mrs. Fred Aeikens served as leader for 15 years. The leaders for the present club, the "Atomic" are Mrs. Wm. G. Ammerman, Mrs. Ben Davids and Mrs. Egbert Fokken.

In the fall of 1946 Mrs. Henry Bohlsen and Mrs. Fred Aeikens with Mrs. Art Lindner from Lone Tree met with three ladies from Montevideo and organized the Homemakers of Chippewa County. The first lesson in 1947 was on remodeling kitchens, the first in 1963 was on salad making. Mrs. Robert Ammerman is councilor for our township. The group is known as the Buzy Dozen.

RHEIDERLAND SCHOOLS

District 55 was the first school in the township. It was built on what is now Bunde corner and for a time served not only as a school but as a place of worship for the community. It began regular sessions in 1888 with Emma Wilson teaching 10 pupils from 11-19 to 1-1 and again that spring 3-18 thru 6-14 with 8 pupils. The County Superintendent made note that he thought the building was larger than was necessary for the district. He found the pupils all German and such a variety of books that it was very difficult for the teacher whose first term it was too. But he commended her for good work. The directors that first year were Jacob Myering, Egbert Brouwer and Andreas Peterson. The next year D. W. Ammerman,—it was often called the Ammerman school—John Aalfs and A. F. Peterson hired Miss Wilson for another term. Among those first students were Lillie Ammerman (Mrs. Lillie Scheltens) who still lives on the home place, and Thoma Theesen (Mrs. Ted Diekman) now living in Clara City. The late Joe and Martin Ulferts, Mrs. John Taatjes, S. Theesen and Fred Grussing and others were among the first pupils. Often the grownups would attend during the winter months

Eighth grade of District 55, 1913—Trina Ammerman (Mrs. Garbrand Peters), Henrietta Scheltens, Gertrude Schurman (Mrs. Henry Wissink), Mamie Ammerman (Mrs. Fred Santjer), Harry Brouwer, George P. Grussing.

to help them learn the language of their new country. One man came from across the line in Kandiyohi county. Since no records exist, outside of these notes from the Superintendent's office, the memories of this school must serve to record what we can. Maggie Glynn was the next teacher. A John Williams taught soon thereafter. He was from Montevideo and drove his horse and buggy there weekends. C. Burges who later was editor of the Clara City Herald taught a term. Mamie Dewey, James DeGrote, Hattie Weiland (Mrs. George Hendricks), Jessie Voss, Bessie Sconberg (Mrs. C. Pearson), Anna Vikre, Alma Moe, Eleanor Erlandson, Sarah Reid, Regina Storbe, Christine Jorgenson, Hattie Moen, Grace Bergstaller (Mrs. Henry Koenig), Ada Garberg, Grace Berg, Lillie Kuiper (Mrs. Jones), Ann Tammen (Mrs. Al Hartzel), Edna Anderson (Mrs. Edna Skrukrud now teaching in the Clara City school), John E. Asche (Grade school principal in Clara City), George D. Grussing, Etta Freese (Mrs. L. Boike also teaching in Clara City) and Carol Kelly (Mrs. Verne Captain) were some of the teachers.

In about 1892 the school was moved 1 mile north and 1 mile west on a corner of the Henry Bohlsen farm. It is interesting that while it was being moved classes were held in it as usual. This school was the first in the area to transport its pupils to Clara City—about 1939. So . . . for about 50 years it educated as many as three generations in more than one family probably. We know that Fred Grussing, his son George P. and his grandson Paul all attended. The building is still in use, on the John Ruschen farm, 3 miles north and 2 miles east of the Bunde corner where it started out.

District 66, the Green Meadow School, was formed when 8 voters met February 2, 1892 to organize another school in the township. G. Dannen presided at the meeting and A. F. Peterson acted as clerk. Mr. A. E. Peterson offered ½ acre for a school site on the NW corner of SE¼ of sec. 29. The offer was accepted. Records show $1.50 was paid annually for rent of site. A school house, 24' long, 16' wide, and 9' high was planned to be completed by May 1. 1892 when they would have 2 months of school. The officers elected were: Fred Freese clerk, A. F. Peterson treasurer. and G. Dannen director. At a special meeting called by 5 freeholders, A. F. Peterson, Fred Freese, Jacob F. Peterson, Geerd Dannen and Enno Christians it was moved to try to loan $300.00 from the State of Minn. $175 was voted for teacher's salary, $25 for fuel and $50 for furniture. They decided to have 7 months of school. The first term from June 22 to July 16, 1892

District 66, 1894, Anna Berghuis teacher. Front row left to right: Tetka Caspers (Mrs. Everett Asche), Ralph Freese, Carrie Freese (Sister M. Ulrica), Jacob Peterson, Nettie Jurgena (Mrs. Joe Frikke), John A. Koenen, Harmena Caspers (Mrs. Ted Erdman), Cordie Freese, Jennie Koenen (Mrs. Ben Fischer). Second row: Winnie Kray (Mrs. Wm. Andresen), Pete A. Koenen, Trientje A. Koenen, Charlie A. Koenen, Flora Jurgena (Mrs. George Gerdes), Joe Caspers, Tillie Freese (Mrs. Danne Dannen). Third row: Herman B. Schulte, Ben Sweep, Margaret Kray (Mrs. Gretus Janssen), Anna Berghuis teacher, Greitje Peterson (Mrs. John Sheltens), John Kray, Etta Caspers (Mrs. Ernest Ostendorf), William J. Caspers.

was taught by Mable Lewis. The other teachers were (we have completed records on this school!) Bertha Soine, Anna Berghuis, Helga Monson, Hannam Wolstad, Edith H. Waters, Grace E. Johnston, Kathryne Lavelle, Christine Jorgenson, Karen M. Jorgenson, Ida Mybakke, Chris H. Ahlfs, Grace M. Gallogly, Ella Avans, Mary Hartney, Lois Hubbard, Bessie Douglas, Katherine Lund, Marie C. Pederson, G. H. Plesscher, Anna Feley, Minnie Bush, Bertha E. Ronning, Mary Mitchell, Evelyn Lindgren, Mamie Kuiper, Annie C. Person, Irene Henslin, Lillian Andrews, Ida Grunke, Anna Tammen, Lena De Grote, Minnie Buss, Delores Anderson, Mrs. Violet Long, Sophie Lalim, Mrs. Eunice Donner, Mrs. Pearl Smith, Mrs. Etta Dieken, Mrs. Etta Boike and Mrs. Esther Eide.

Chris Ahlfs who taught the term of 1907 and '08 of this time recalled, "I had just graduated from the Montevideo schools and had received a First Grade Teachers certificate when I applied for the position of teacher in District No. 66 just south of Clara City for the term of 1907-1908. The school board consisted of John Scheltens, John W. Caspers and E. J. Petersen. These officials were favorably impressed with my application until appraised of some alterations and improvements that should be instituted in the management and facilities of their School Program.

The Board by engaging a teacher with a first grade Certificate, instituting a nine months school term and improving the school building would become eligible for state aid. The conditions consisted of installing a ventilating system, jacket the old heating stove and supplying the janitor with sweeping compound to keep the dust down while cleaning the floor of the school building, together with my demands for a $50.00 a month salary, when they had never paid more than $40.00 per month for an 8 month's term.

The members of the Board held up their hands in Holy Horror at these expenses for they had never heard of State Aid to Schools and were wondering if they would ever receive any. After considering, at some length, the Board concluded to make the improvements but would give the teacher a conditional contract stipulating that his salary would be $40.00 per month and if they got the State Aid, he would receive an additional $10.00 per month.

There were 32 children, all the way from the first grade to the 8th grade, and the teacher had to do all the janitor work, such as building the fires, sweeping the room, besides being the Truant officer.

Towards the Spring the pupils and the teacher got up a program to be given in connection with a Basket Social. This affair came off very nicely and with the efficient efforts of Fred Freese, as auctioneer, the grand sum of $7.35 was collected.

After some deliberation the school children decided to have a picture taken of themselves and the teacher. On a fine day early in April, some five farmers volunteered vehicles and power, consisting of buggies and horses for transportation to take the whole aggregation for a distance of 9 miles to Sacred Heart and a Mr. Sparstad made the picture.

Teacher: Christ Aalfs of School District 66. Left to right, first row: Annie Christians, Veronica Schulte, George Caspers, Willie Christians, Harvey Freese, Andrew Petersen. Second row: Minnie Kray, Aiese Koenen, Bernard Freese, Bernard Schulte, Ralph Petersen, Grace Caspers. Third row: Angeline Freese, Margaret Kray, Grace Petersen, Elizabeth F. Petersen, Elizabeth I. Petersen, Jeanette Caspers, Jennie Christians, Susie Kray. Fourth row: Fred Barney, George Barney, Maggie Christians, Martin Caspers, Hattie Kray, Annie Petersen, John Christians, Gertie Dannen. Fifth row: Aldrich Dannen, Teacher Chris Ahlfs, Harm Koenen, Chris Barney. This picture was taken in April, 1908 at Sacred Heart, Minn.

In 1909 the school was moved by George Kray for $35. $120 was paid Fred G. Peterson for an acre on the S. E. ¼ of Sec. 30 and the schoolhouse enlarged. Thus it was used until the district consolidated with Clara City in 1953. School houses were built well evidently for this one like most others is still in use, on the Art Dieken farm. The acre of ground was sold back to Fred Peterson as was stipulated when he sold it in 1909. The men who piloted the school through its 61 years besides those already mentioned were Fred, George and I. O. Kray, John Caspers, John J. Scheltens, E. J. Peterson, Henry Eekhoff, Harm Caspers, Elmer T. Deiken, J. F. Peterson, Koene A. Brouwer, Danne Dannen, George A. and John A. Koenen, Hans Zimmer, Ralph Peterson, Robert E. Gerdes and Wessel R. Kluver. Their children and many more made up the pupil list of the school.

In the early days of District 67 the school terms were about 6 months long and the teacher's wages $25 to $30 a month. In 1893 Gertie Knudson of Renville taught. If that was the first term, we can not be sure. The term started 10/1 and lasted 6 months. Then our records skip to 1897 and from then on there is a complete set. Hattie Ryksema, Ellen Holmberg Martha Ostrason, Vera B. White, Emma Ackerland and Hilda Haugen preceded Bessie Sconberg, a girl from the district who taught in 1905. Amanda Geib from Clara City followed, then Alma Bay. The first man teacher, William Greenfield of Clara City later became a famous doctor in the east. Caroline Amundsen, Ellen Nelson, Aagot J. Kiland, Josephine Hanson, Ellen Edgren, Jennie Holzer, Esther Saterlee, Josephine Collins and Mabel Erickson preceded Lilly Kuiper and Clara M. Rhode, Clara City School products. Katherine Smith and Karl Spellum taught 3 years until 1928 when Mabel Van Buren came. She was well known to many hereabouts. Celia Ericson, Olga Soblowsky, T. H. Radtke and the next name is familiar and well known to most of us, Jennie D. Grussing, who taught three terms beginning in 1933. The next teacher was also a popular local girl, Mae Scheltens who also stayed three years. Gladys Orlebeke, now Mrs. Willard Prekker of Albuquerque, N. M., followed Christine Monroe's term. By this time teachers were in shorter supply so Mrs. Julius Bode taught until Miss Thom was ready after Christmas. She taught another full term. In 1943 Alice Korn began a three year term that concluded the active years in the district. Thereafter the pupils were transported to Clara City, with which they consolidated later.

Many of the pupils that attended this school are still living in the surrounding community and have done much towards its progress as well as that of

the neighboring community of Prinsburg. There are such names as Groote, Sconberg, Bontjer, Berghuis, Duininck, Groen, Pierson, Jacobs, Hoff, Muller, Abbas, Johnson, Ulferts, Kramer, Jansen, Gerdes, Van Hevelen, Tebben, Caspers, Harms, Meinerts, Zimmer, Woltjer, Kluge, Westendorp, Frikke, Brouwer, Underland, Zondervan, Grussing, Link, Ammerman, Schwitters, Asche, Aeikens, Dirkse, Bergentahl, Sweep and Ritz. 'Twas a son of this Minnie Ritz, John Reuter, who was drowned in the flooded creek between Nan G. and Robert Ammerman's farms June 13, 1957.

District 12 was formed when July 10, 1900 a hearing was held before the Board of County Commissioners to form a new district by taking sections 21, 28 and 33 now in District 66 and sections 22, 27 and 34 now in District 67 all in Rheiderland Township. The petition was granted and District 12 was organized. The number was from an earlier school no longer in existance. The schools were numbered in the order in which they were organized. One third of the money on hand and due from the County Treasurer by District 66 and 67 was to be turned over to the new district. The building was put up 1½ miles south of the Bunde church corner and was ready for use the fall of 1903. All the records of this school have been destroyed but memories have brought forth a complete list of teachers tho those before 1915 could not be compiled in correct order. They are Bessie Sconberg, Gertrude Flatten, Hattie Weiland, Anna Holzinger, Andy Mettling, Marie Peterson, Laura Grandprey, Mathilda Hjort and Christine Jorgenson. Beginning in 1915 in order they are: Josie Thompson, George Zimmer, Emma Priebe, Julia Sconberg, Mabel Hanson, Regina Storby, Mae Arneson, Corrine Haugen, Lillie Kuiper, Anna Tammen, Amelia Dieken, Anna Ammerman, Mildred Hasken, Tetkea Tebben, Lawrence Grussing, Mathilda Dahl, Margaret Van Buren, Sarah Reed, Cordelia Olson, Lorraine Rhoades, Henrietta Frank and Mae Scheltens. In 1945 the pupils were transported to Clara City with which the district eventually consolidated. Some of the school board members were Henry Fokken, Remmer Seitsema, Meine Gerdes, Henry H. Grussing, Nan Fokken, Simon Tebben and Ted Van Hove. The Fokken family lived with the school from start to finish. Henry Fokken was on the school board and his son Nan started in second grade when it opened. When the father retired the son took his place on the board until the district was dissolved. Being so close to the church the school was not the social center as is the case in some places but the Christmas programs and school picnics will never be forgotten.

The first record of District 70 was in 1901 when the school board consisting of Henry Frikke Sr., John Bonnema, and W. Willms hired Ava M. Aitchison to teach for $35. a month. The school house was on a section line but was later moved to the N. W. corner of the farm of B. Bannerman, now that on which the Virgil Bohlsen family live. The teachers, in order, were: Alma E. Swenson, Mae Dusell, Eva Kennedy, Louise Vick, Emma Scheltens, John Scheltens, Eunice Mills, Anna Vikre, Minnie Rovaan, Bessie Sconberg, Tegner Ness, Annie Greenfield, Annie Caspers (Mrs. Chris Aalfs), Annie Westendorf, (Mrs. Wm. Doesken), Hattie Weiland, George Zimmer, Mildred Burgstahler, Alma Fleuter, Anna Holzinger, Ulfert Ulferts, Bertha Christianson, Clara Dolan, Bonnie Thissen, Lydia Korn (Mrs. John Eklo), Regina Storeby, Alice Korn, William Scheltens, Lucille Prekker (Mrs. Henry Priebe), Amelia Dieken (Mrs. John Heins), Jane Asche (Mrs. Lawrence Grussing), Dorothy Rotunda, Irene Lundquist, Mrs. Jane Grussing, Celeste Johnson (Mrs. Clarence Donner), Mrs. Edith Thissen, Mrs. Bonnie Tischer, Lydia Aeikens (Mrs. Harry J. Hoogeveen) and Mrs. Nettie Prekker.

District 70, 1941—Students were Stanley Meyer, Harlen Tebben, Margaret Fisher, John Ruschen, Ardis Johnson, Virgil Gerdes, Richard Aeikens, Virgil Bohlsen, Esther Meyer, Sylvia Fisher, John Tebben, Grace Ruschen, Lydia Aeikens, Verner Johnson, Marvin Bohlsen, Ernest Meyer, Virgil Johnson, Ruth Boike.

A new school was built in 1915, the old building sold to Albert Grussing for $200. It is used as a granary. After the consolidation with the Clara City Public School the school house was sold to Herman H. Meyer and remodeled into a dwelling in which Mr. and Mrs. John Ruschen now live with their family. The site is a cultivated field today and nothing remains but the memories of the wonderful Christmas programs and the last day picnics to which the entire district came and took part.

Those who directed the affairs of the school were R. H. Ulferts, Albert Bohlsen, Albert Grussing who served for 25 years, Henry Peters, John Van Hauen, W. Willms, Herman Wearda, Ralph Gerdes, Henry Frikke Sr. When the school consolidated and was dissolved Fred Aeikens was clerk, Martin Grussing treasurer and John Abbas chairman. For years the school closed for 2 weeks for a "corn picking vacation". Each annual meeting this was brought up and became a bone of contention. Finally it was decided to have 9 months of school and anyone having to pick corn would have to be absent.

Some scholars are noteworthy, among the teachers, Jennie D. Grussing who now works in Larson's Meat Market, Martha Ulferts (Mrs. Leo Meyer), Etta Ulferts (Mrs. Kasjen Tebben), Lydia Aeikens (Mrs. Harry J. Hoogeveen) and Marlys Grussing (Mrs. David Simpson). In the business world there are Bon Grussing and Louis Ulferts of the Twin Cities, Martin and Stanley Meyer of Clara City and Ernest Meyer of Willmar. In the professions are the Rev. Mr. Bontje Grussing, recently given his D. D., of Hileah, Fla., and Dr. Ulfert Ulferts, M. D., of Louisville, Ky.

BUNDE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

The nucleus of the new settlement in what became Rheiderland Township was made up largely of people of the Reformed faith. Mr. W. D. Ammerman, an elder in his former church at Ridott, Illinois, gathered his neighbors into his home for services and the first year, 1887, petitioned Classis Iowa for permission to organize a congregation. It

First parsonage, church and stables of Bunde Christian Reformed church taken about 1911.

was granted and Rev. C. Bode, then of Harrison, S. Dak., and Elder A. Kleinhuizen of Prinsburg were appointed to assist with the organization. On Dec. 9, 1887 they met with those interested at the Ammerman home. After prayer and the singing of a Psalm Rev. Bode spoke from Matt. 6:33, and the necessary steps were taken. Ten families, sixty-six souls, constituted the new congregation. They were the W. D. Ammerman, Nanne Fokken, P. Berghuis, Wm. Orlebeke, D. Haken, H. R. Luitjens, Ubbo Brouwer, J. J. Ahlfs, H. U. Theesen and E. Brouwer families, Hinderk Berghuis, Cornelius Heikoop and J. Schipper. The following Sabbath Rev. Bode installed Nanne Fokken and W. D. Ammerman as elders and J. J. Ahlfs and E. K. Brouwer as deacons.

In 1888 a school house was built in the center of the township (Bunde corner) with the understanding it could be used on the Sabbath for worship services. A Sunday School was organized to instruct the covenant youth in the Word of God with J. J. Ahlfs, E. K. Brouwer and H. H. Theesen the teachers. The catechism class was taught by W. D. Ammerman. Late that year, Nov. 29, a committee, Ubbo Brouwer, H. U. Theesen, H. Frikke, Nanne Fokken and W. D. Ammerman, was appointed to find a tract of land large enough for a church, parsonage and cemetery. On Dec. 6 they reported to the congregation and four acres were bought from J. J. Ahlfs for $100. When the school house was moved in 1892 that acre was purchased for $30. Mr. and Mrs. Theo. F. Koch and the company they represented gave the church 40 acres of land a quarter mile east of the church property. The property of Mrs. Ben Elberts was purchased in 1956 to make a parking lot and enlarge the grounds. Land was added in 1962 to make the cemetery larger.

The group carried on but greatly desired a pastor to lead them so in Jan. 1892 plans were drafted for a parsonage. With a stone walled basement a dwelling rose, to be followed soon by a small church. A heavy wind storm struck which wrecked the church structure so that the members had to disassemble the building and start all over again. It was dedicated Nov. 6, 1892 and the pastor Rev. J. H. Schultz who had recently arrived from Bentheim, Germany now had a home and a church from which to proclaim the Gospel. What a joy for the congregation to have a leader at last! After two years he accepted a call to our sister church at Prinsburg.

1894 then saw the pastor leave. The congregation took this time to enlarge the parsonage, adding another wing. About this time another blow struck when the Lord called home their lay leader and elder, W. D. Ammerman. In grief the group worked with the Emden congregation to call a pastor. In 1896 the Rev. H. Potgieter accepted their invitation and came to Bunde to live. He endured many hardships as he went back and forth over poor roads in all kinds of weather. Each Sunday he conducted a morning service in Bunde, alternating between the German and Dutch languages. After dinner he set out for Emden and the afternoon service eight miles away. Neither raging blizzard nor temperatures to -30° deterred him. Since he stayed at Emden for several days doing pastoral work, instructing the youth in catechism and music the family would not hear how he made the trip until his return. But he was of sturdy pioneer stock and was well able with the blessing of the Lord to carry on his labors. He was a strongly evangelical preacher and the crowded house of worship was a great inspiration and joy to him. It became necessary to add seating space so a balcony was built in the church. Rev. Potgeiter was a fine musician and conducted singing schools in both churches and a 12 piece band in Bunde. He taught 25 young people to play the organ. When in 1900 he left to serve a church in Kamrar, Iowa the whole congregation was at the depot to see the family off. As the train pulled out the band played: "Gott mit uns bis wir uns weider sehn".

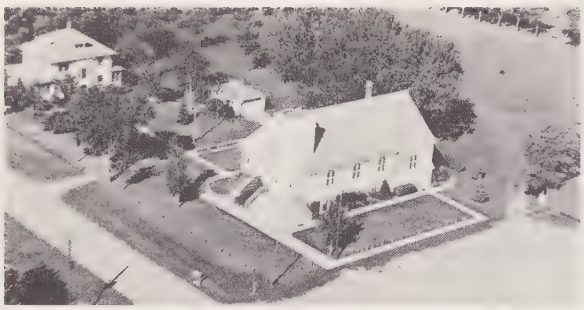
Rev. Ahuis was installed October 6, 1901 and for three years labored in a growing church that was now able to help with missions and the furthering of God's Kingdom. Only a few months after his departure Rev. H. H. Niehaus came but his stay was less than two years. For two years then the church had no pastor. Rev. G. L. Hoefker of the Emden church was of great help during this time. In August 1908 Rev. D. H. Kromminga began his pastoral work. In youthful zeal and vigor he served until Nov. 1911 finding outstanding response from the young people which was most gratifying.

Bunde Church in 1913 after remodeling job. Note hitching rail.

Mr. and Mrs. Nanne Fokken

The following spring the Rev. J. Plesscher began his ministry here. The Holland language was now discontinued and all the services were conducted in German. The congregation had enjoyed a steady growth and the building by now had become totally inadequate. It was decided to add a south wing, an extension to the East, an entrance vestibule and bell tower which about doubled its capacity. It was a time of rejoicing when the two Plesscher boys and Kasjen Tebben decided to study for the ministry. In the fall of 1916 Rev. Pdesscher retired from his pastoral labors.

It was several months before Rev. F. Schuurman began his ministry here during the turbulant days of World War I and the flu epidemic of 1918. There was much need for guidance and the comfort of the Word, as allegiance to their new country required the congregation to buy Liberty Bonds and give their sons to fight their own kin in the homeland. But the Lord was gracious, only Fred Ammerman



Air view of Bunde church and parsonage in 1943.

went across, Arend Brouwer and George Bohlsen spent time in camp, and all returned safely. The flu epidemic took a greater toll, Louise Scheltens and her niece Henrietta succumbed to the disease.

A new manse was built in 1918, the old one was divided and part is still in use in the Marvin Bohlsen home, the other part in the John Abbas home.

The stress of world conditions demanded the introduction of the American language in the divine services and church life. Change came slowly and at first only one service a month was given to the language of our country. In the Sunday School however the changeover was more complete. Since Rev. Schuurman was unable to use the language of his adopted country it became necessary for him to exchange pulpits with neighboring pastors and eventually to seek another congregation. During this trying period there was evidence of deepening of the spiritual life of the congregation as well as numerical growth.

April 28, 1921 a Ladies Aid Society was organized with the pastor as chairman, Mrs. Robert Gerdes vice-president; Mrs. F. Schuurman, secretary; Mrs. H. Luitjens, Ass't. Sec.; Mrs. Martin Ulferts, Treasurer; Mrs. Albert Grussing, Ass't. Treas. The other charter members were Mrs. John Taatjes, Mrs. Kone U. Brouwer, Mrs. John Asche, Mrs. Harry Meyer, Mrs. Herman Meyer, Mrs. John Backer, Mrs. John Zimmer, and Mrs. Fred H. Grussing. It met regularly in the church during Rev. Schuurman's pastorate. On Dec. 12, 1926 Rev. Schuurman became the pastor of the church at Middleburg, Iowa.

For four years Bunde searched for a pastor, the difficulty undoubtedly being the fact that few ministers in the denomination could speak both German and the American language. Ten calls were extended and declined. A second call to Dr. William Bode brought an acceptance March 3, 1930. He experienced a long and fruitful ministry. His past experience as a pastor and a teacher helped make the difficult transition in language so that the changeover was fully realized during his ministry. The Ladies Aid which had disbanded when Rev. Schuurman left was activated and the Dorcas Society was formed. The Daily Vacation Bible School which had been held at other times became a regular custom. Again Bunde church was too full at services. The organization of a new church at Raymond took 13 families but their places were soon filled.

On October 12, 1937 the congregation celebrated their Golden Jubilee with the former pastors, Rev. Plesscher and Rev. Schuurman here to rejoice with us. A son of the congregation, Rev. Kasjen Tebben, presented one of the addresses.

At a congregational meeting later that year a committee was appointed to make plans for improvements to the building. At a meeting Feb. 8, 1940 it was voted to erect a new church at the cost of $12,500. Julius Bode, the pastor's son contracted the job and with other members immediately set to work. The dedication took place October 11, 1940. In 1941 it was the privilege of the congregation for the first time to serve as host to Classis Minnesota. It was at this meeting that Dr. Bode became ill, an affliction from which he suffered for some seven months until the Lord removed him to the church triumphant October 22, 1941. During his illness the church was ministered to by Rev. G. H. Haan, father of our present pastor.

In January of 1942 Rev. P. F. Dahm came from Ogilvie, Minn. He continued with the church improvement program started by his predecessor. A Wicks pipe organ was installed, the old barn and hen house were removed and a new garage built. A grove of elms was set out which we are enjoying now. World War II took a number of our young men and our hearts were heavy as reports came that Alvin Grussing had been injured and then that Cornie Rindels gave his life in the Battle of the Bulge. The others returned safely and though they talk little of their experiences, they will never forget.

April 6, 1942 saw the name of the church officially changed from the First Combined German Holland Christian Reformed Church to "The Bunde Christian Reformed Church". "Bunde" was the name of the town near W. D. Ammerman's home in Germany and he had given the church this name—unofficially—from the beginning.

On June 19, 1943 occurred a tragedy such as we had not known before, or since. Two of our young men and a cousin of one were drowned as they returned from a morning of fishing. Julius Bode, son of Dr. and Mrs. W. Bode, and Wallace Brouwer, son of Mr. and Mrs. George U. Brouwer were the victims. A double funeral was held for the two friends who had worked and enjoyed leisure time together.

In 1951 about 12 families left to form the nucleus of the new church organized in Clara City. Because of illness Rev. Dahm was granted emeritation in the fall of 1954. During that summer a student pastor James C. Lont served us. Having completed his schooling he accepted our call and came to be our pastor September 25, 1955. His youthful zeal and earnest sincerity quietly and surely strengthened the church which was again experiencing growing pains. Mrs. Ben Elberts property was bought and a committee began studying what could be done about enlarging the church. February 1, 1959 he preached his farewell sermon and went to the Graafschap church in Holland, Michigan. He had planned well with his consistory for the time the church might be without an under-shepherd. The first pastor called, accepted and in about 2 months Rev. R. H. Haan arrived and was installed April 3, 1959.

Present Bunde church after 1961 remodeling.

In 1960 a remodeling program began which enlarged the church. The parking lot was improved and paved and the parsonage grounds have been improved and landscaped.

October 10, 1962 saw the Bunde church celebrating its Diamond Jubilee with Rev. P. F. Dahm and Rev. James Lont with us for the occasion. Rev. Kasjen Tebben addressed the congregation again. Indeed God has been good to us!

Six sons of the congregation became ministers of the Gospel in the Christian Reformed church: John H. Grussing, John G. and Diedrick Plesscher, Kasjen Tebben, John F. Schuurman and Arlo Dahm. Dr. Bontje Grussing is serving in the Presbyterian church.

Stoneham Township

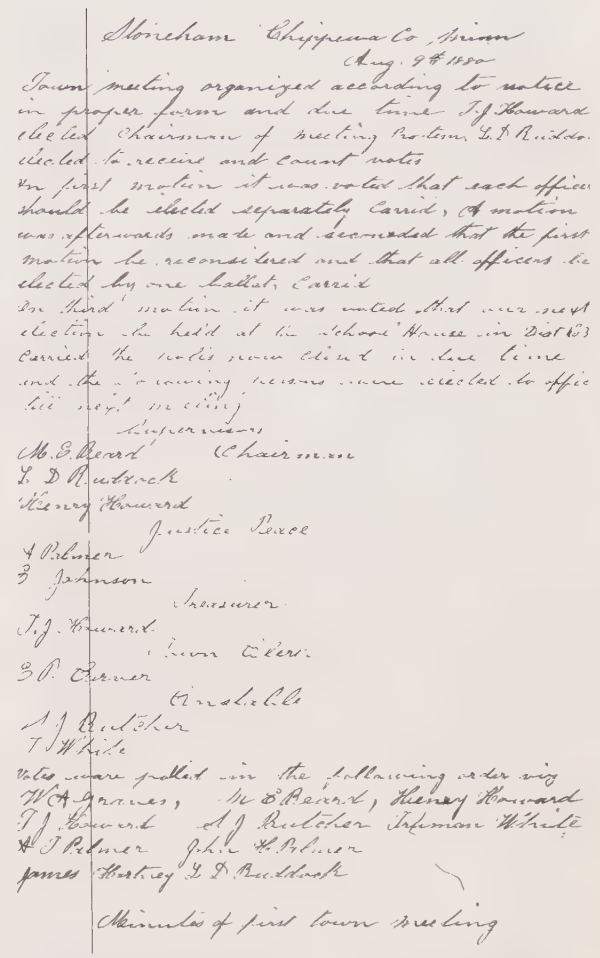
Stoneham township is located in township 117, Range 38.

James Hartney was the first settler in Stoneham township, entering his claim in 1872 in the Northeast quarter at Section 30. When Mr. Hartney entered his claim and set up his claim shanty there was not a tree in sight on the broad prairie. While working in the Minneapolis mills he made up his mind to enter a soldier's claim to a tract of land.

The township was organized on July 20, 1880. In the discussion held at the organization meeting, both Hammet Stone and Warren A. Graves laid claim to the honor of having the township named after their respective selves. This led to a division of sentiment among the pioneers present at the meeting. The tension was broken by Mr. Hartney who exclaimed, "Oh, we'd better name it Gravestone and give honor to both"! This settled both claimants and a compromise was quickly reached by adopting the suggestion of another settler, whose old home was at Stoneham, Massachusetts. This satisfied all concerned and the township carries the name Stoneham.

Samuel C. Gale and other real-estate speculators of Minneapolis, Charles Cushman of Boston, and Gustavus A. Austin entered at private entry a large part of the even-numbered sections in this township. These lands were surveyed during the administration of James Buchanan and were offered for sale, but there were no bidders, whereupon they were held open for private entry and fell into the hands of these speculators about the year 1870. Warren A. Graves took a homestead in Section 34 and his house was for many years a stopping place on the old stage road between Granite Falls and Willmar. Dr. N. M. Smith, Lysander Smith and Truman White settled in Section 32. Austin W. Stearns, Lymon B. Stearns and Bronston Stipe took land in Section 28.

Nels Norberg bought land around the lake in Section 26 in 1878 adding land from time to time until he and his sons eventually accumulated sixteen hundred acres. Frank and Fred Habstritt bought internal improvement land from the state in Section 28 in the summer of 1882. James Stone and Milo E. Beard took claims in Section 20.



Stoneham Chippewa Co, Minn
Aug. 9th 1880

Town meeting organized according to notice in proper form and due time T. J. Howard elected Chairman of meeting pro-tem. L. D. Ruddock elected to receive and count votes

On first motion it was voted that each office should be elected separately Carried, A motion was afterwards made and seconded that the first motion be reconsidered and that all officers be elected by one ballot. Carried

On third motion it was voted that next election be held at the School House in Dist 53 Carried. The polls were then declared open and the following persons were elected to office till next meeting

Supervisors
M. E. Beard Chairman
L. D. Ruddock
Henry Howard

Justice Peace
A Palmer
J Johnson

Treasurer
T. J. Howard

Town Clerk
O. P. Turner

Constable
A J Ruddock
T White

Votes were polled in the following order viz
W A Graves, M E Beard, Henry Howard
T J Howard A J Ruddock Jefferson White
A J Palmer John H Palmer
James Hartney L D Ruddock

Minutes of first town meeting

The first town meeting was held on August 9, 1880 at the home of James Hartney. The only item of business was the election of officers. Elected that

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Norberg and Residence

date included E. P. Carver, clerk; M. E. Beard, chairman; L. D. Ruddock, Henry Howard, Supervisors; T. J. Howard, Treasurer; A. T. Palmer, Elling Johnson, Justice of Peace; S. J. Butcher, Truman White, Constables.

On October 7, 1880 a meeting was called to order in School District 30 to order a tax to be raised to defray the expenses of the township. On motion $50 was ordered raised on the taxable property for township purposes. Upon a second motion an additional tax was ordered on taxable property for road and bridge purposes.

In addition to these mentioned taxes a poll tax was levied by proclamation of a written statement reading as follows: "The said supervisors having proceeded to ascertain estimate and assess the highway labor to each and every male inhabitant in said town liable to be assessed for highway labor to be performed in said town the ensuing year."

On June 4, 1887 Stoneham Township entered a proposition with the Willmar and Sioux Falls Railroad, better known as the Great Northern Railroad, whereby bonds would be issued to the township to aid the construction of a line of railroad through Stoneham Township. This was voted on at a special meeting of the township on June 18, 1887. All votes cast were in favor of the proposition. With the completion of the railroad through the township more and more people settled on the land.

The first school was taught in the house of S. J. Butcher by Louisa Everson, during the summer of 1876. Education progressed so that District 37 was organized in 1878. A new school was built in 1880, a very excellent structure for that day. This school was located in Section 34. Although no record can be found of the original officers of the district, other records show that Miss Emma Jacobs was one of the first teachers. School terms in the early days usually were for 3 months. The enrollment was 30 pupils.

Although this list is not complete some of the families who attended Dist. 37 are as follows: Henry Klenke, Nels Norberg, Charles Habstritt, Fred Becker, John Freisleben, J. Koenen, Iver Lalim, C. O. Brekken, Ole Alstad, Abel Hoogheem, Dick Aeikens, Albert Becker, and Ed. Rever. Complete records for this district are not available and therefore others may have attended this district but no way of tracing back to them can be found.

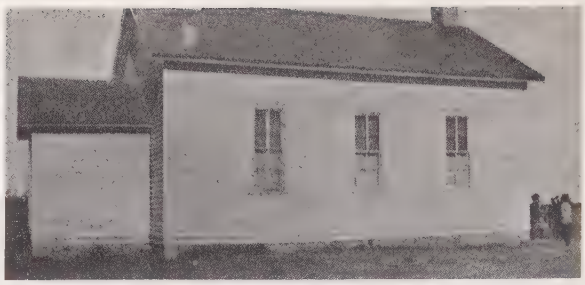
We were able to find one teacher, Miss Ruth Knight who taught in the district two terms, from 1915-1916 and 1916-1917.

The school officers during 1916-1917 were: Dick Aeikens, Iver Lalim, and Olaf Brekken. Pictured are the 34 pupils, however a couple of the children are directly behind others and are not clearly visible.

1st row—Theodore Aeikens, Edwin Baker, John Koenen, Fred K. Aeikens, Eddie Reyer, Dick Aeikens, Theodore Koenen, Conrad Alstad.

2nd row—Sadie Hoogheem, Florence Aeikens, Selma Lalim, Susie Aeikens, Hilda Lalim, Minnie Baker Symka Tebben, Clara Heen.

3rd row—Henry Heen, Rudolph Brekken, Fred Koenen, Bert Hoogheem, Cornelius Hoogheem, Carl Baker, Herman Baker, Sigert Brekken, Bennie Aeikens, Ida Lalim, Ellen Heen, Christina Brekken, Alice Alstad, Alice Aeikens, Francis Hoogheem, Carrie Koenen, and Alma Alstad.



At one time in the 1920's the enrollment reached 42 pupils with an 8 month school term. However, many students stayed at home to help their parents with the farm work and missed much of their school term.

The top wage paid in this school district for teaching instruction was $97.50 per month. This was in the year 1942.

DISTRICT NO. 73

This district was organized in 1885 located in Section 28 of Stoneham Township.

Here also records are incomplete but research has shown that two of the first teachers were Miss Macy Warner and Mr. Alden Laidlaw.

Among some of the families that attended this school were the Ben Fischers, Frank Habstritts, Charles Rhodes, Fred Harguths, Gustav Priebes, E. A. Laidlaws, Wm. Schroeders, Albert Lalims, O. O. Grove.

These are pictures of the teacher and pupils of District 73 taken in 1903. The teacher was Miss Ruth Zeno. The pupils are: the Priebe children, Emma, Mary, Arthur, George and Albert; the Frank Habstritts, Clayton and Gertrude; the Charles Habstritt girls; the Harguth children, George, Joe, and Clara; and the Rhodes, Frank and Andrew.

The close-up picture shows Miss Zeno with five of her girls namely: Clara Harguth, Mamie Habstritt, Mary Priebe, Gertrude Habstritt, and Charlotte Habstritt.

The salary of the first teachers was set at $25 a term which started in April and ended in July. At about the turn of the century the school term had lengthened out more with school beginning in October and ending in May. It was always familiar to see many of the children at home at work in the field rather than in school as this was expected of them to help with the farm work first then, if there was time, they would go to school.

The top enrollment reached in District 73 was 33 in the early 1900's. In 1940 when the enrollment dropped to 7 the district voters at the annual meeting in June of 1940 decided to close the district and transport and enroll their pupils into the Maynard District No. 30.

In 1952 the voters agreed to dissolve the district and become a part of District No. 30 (Maynard Consolidated School).

DISTRICT NO. 71

District No. 71 located in Section 8 of Stoneham Township was organized in 1895. The first Board of the district consisted of Ben Hagen, G. P. Hahn and A. N. Erickson.

No record of the first teacher is available but records show that she received $20 a month for a 5 month term.

Families who attended District 71 are as follows: The families of Ben Hagen, O. T. Nelson, A. Tingle, Louis Beckman, Lutken Boike, H. Giese, Albert Rhode, Jacob M. Schuman, W. K. Jacobs, Joe Horney, N. O. Bergson who later changed his name to Burns, John Roeskens, Otto Pieper, Henry Schaller.

At one time the enrollment was over 50 pupils in the 1910's. This necessitated the building of a larger building which was constructed in 1915 and still is located in Section 8 although not used for school purposes. The school remained open until 1946 when the voters decided to enroll their pupils in District 30 and District 62. This district dissolved in the 1950's with about half the district consolidating with District 30 in Maynard and the other half with District 62 in Clara City.

Otto G. Pieper, a pioneer farmer in Stoneham Township was born in Germany on March 21, 1874, the son of August Pieper and Amelia Wobshall. Mr. Pieper received his education in Germany and at the age of 17 came across the water and settled with relatives in Steele County of Minnesota. In January of 1897 Mr. Pieper travelled to Granite Falls by rail and hoped to catch a train up to the Clara City area to look at a tract of land in Stoneham Township. There were no immediate trains travelling this way so Mr. Pieper walked the distance. He realized that this was excellent land and took the proper measures to purchase 120 acres in Section 15, buying the land from Mr. Peter Lauritsen. Mr. Pieper returned to Steele and on March 17, 1900, he and Miss Emma Zeise, daughter of Mr. Gottlieb and Johanna Zeise were married. Mr. and Mrs. Pieper immediately moved to Stoneham Township to make their permanent residence. To this union were born three sons, Herbert, Albert and George.

Mr. Pieper was very active in the building of this township. He served for many years as Clerk of School District 71. He was secretary of the Citizen Telephone Company 26 years, a Director with the Crate Mutual Fire Insurance Co. 12 years, Assessor of the township 15 years, secretary of the Co-op Creamery 34 years, a director with the Clara City Co-Op Elevator Co.

In the spring of 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Pieper retired from active farming and purchased a home in north Clara City where they still reside.

Mr. Pieper notes with interest the fact that in 1897 the taxes on his original farm were $22. Also much of the land in the township at that time was slough land. With the advent of ditching in 1908 this land was drained and became very productive.

In the early 1900's a prolonged period of dry weather prevailed in the area of Western Minnesota and the Dakotas. Although this area we live in was not damaged by the drought, the Dakotas were and it became necessary for many of the Dakota people to load their belongings and return eastward. One of the major roads then through the area passed through the Pieper farm and Mr. Pieper relates to us that many wagons passed with the following words on the wagons, "40 Miles From Water, 40 Miles From Wood, We're Leaving South Dakota For *Good!*"

Albert Rhode was born on Feb. 12, 1873 in Germany, the son of Andrew and Matilda Rhode. Raised and educated in Germany, came to this country and first lived near New Ulm, Minnesota. In 1897 Mr. Rhode moved to Chippewa County and settled on 160 acres in Section 9 of Stoneham Township.

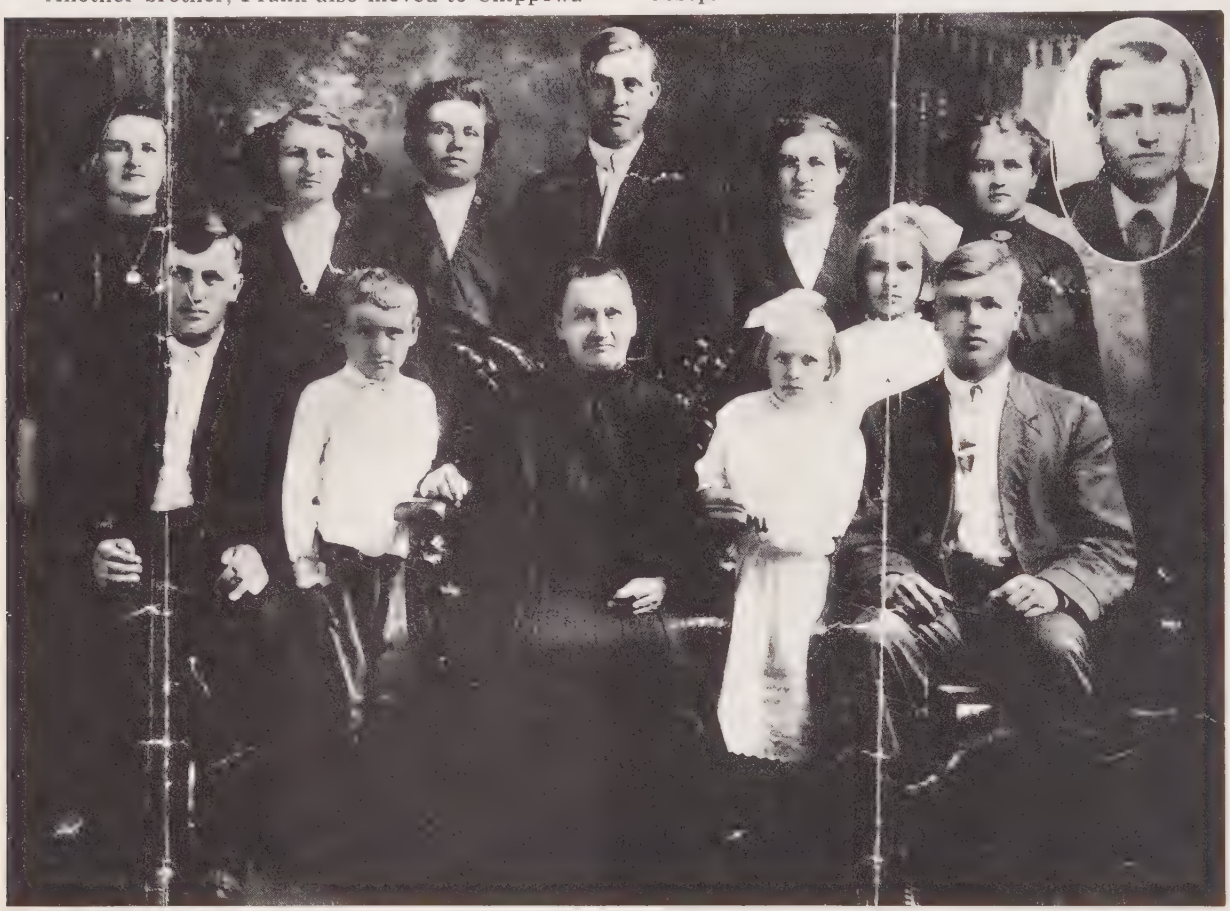
On February 7, 1907 Albert was united in marriage to Anna Krammer and to this union were born four children, Florence (now Sister Annella), Cecilia (Mrs. Ted Speiser), Leo, and Mathilda. In 1937 Mr. and Mrs. Rhode retired from farming and moved to New Ulm to enjoy their senior citizen years.

A brother of Mr. Rhode, Charles, also took residence in Stoneham Township in Section 22 in 1898. Charles and his wife Matilda worked hard to improve the land as well as the building site. Their children were Frank, Andrew, August, John, Albert, Theresa, Joseph, Bernard, Clara and Charles.

Mrs. Rhode died in 1904 and Mr. Rhode met with accidental death in 1907. The children maintained the farm and improved it more.

Another brother, Frank also moved to Chippewa and worked in this area all his life. Frank never married.

A sister of Albert and Charles Rhode, Bertha married at Waseca, Minn., to Mr. Fred Harguth, also moved to Stoneham Township buying land in Section 21, building up the land and erecting substantial buildings on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Harguth were blessed with the following children: Agatha, Andrew, George, Albert, Clara, Walter and Joseph.



Back row, Dora, Emma, Elsie, George, Mary, Minnie, Gustav H.

Front row, Arthur, John, Mrs. Priebe, Esther, Theresa, Albert.

Gustav H. Priebe was born on September 1, 1863 in Waseca County, the son of William and Augusta Priebe. He grew to manhood and was educated in the public schools. In 1885 he was united in marriage to Augusta Welspennig, daughter of Fred and Dorothy Welspennig.

Mr. and Mrs. Priebe remained residents of Waseca County until 1898 at which time they came to Chippewa County and located in Stoneham Township where they purchased 320 acres of land in Section 22. Foreseeing the excellent future of farming he later bought 240 acres in Section 6 and 160 acres in Section 15. He improved his farms with substantial buildings and took much interest in the development and upkeep of the land. He served on the town board for several years.

Much of the success of this family was due to the efforts of Mrs. Priebe who assisted her husband in every way possible. After the accidental death of Mr. Priebe in 1904, Mrs. Priebe managed the farms with the help of her children namely: Elsie, Dora, Mary, Albert, George, Arthur, Emma, Minnie, Theresa, John and Esther.

Pictured here is the Luitjen Boike family. Behind Mr. and Mrs. Boike are left to right: Lena, Mrs. Richard Dieken; Mary, Mrs. John S. Tammen; Dena, Mrs. Theodore Reinholt; Ella, Mrs. John J. Tammen; Harm, Louie, deceased; Folgo, Chris, and Louis W.

Luitjen Boike and Velke Beckman were married in 1883 in Reinbeck, Iowa. They lived in that vicinity for 4 years and came to Stoneham Township in 1887. They first lived on the Art Priebe farm where Allen Priebe now lives. The Boike family also lived on what is now the Iver Lalim farm and Se. 5 on the John Swift farm: In 1909 they moved on the farm now owned by Ed. Roskens and lived there until 1916 when they retired and came to Clara City. They lived in the house now owned by Orville Ackerman.

Some of the children remember the first threshing rig their father used. It was driven by horse power, 12 horses being used. One time the tumbler rod broke and frightened the horses. This started a runaway with the horses going round and round until one team fell. Then the team directly behind them fell over the first two horses. The rest of the horses had to stop. There was some excitement for a while until the horses could be calmed down again. The injured horses were replaced and threshing went right on!

Jacob Schuman, a native of Luxemburg, and Martha Rhode, a native of Germany were married in Clara City, May 3, 1898. They settled on a farm in Stoneham Township and farmed till their retirement in 1922. They moved to Clara City and their son, Joseph, farmed the land until 1958, when his son George took over the farm.

Jacob Schuman family from left to right:

Back how: Clara, deceased; Agnes (Mrs. Arthur Habstritt) St. Cloud; Peter (married Marie Donner) Park River, N. Dak.); Joseph (married Theresa Kron) Clara City; Mary (Mrs. William Stutelberg) Benson; Bertha (Sister M. Martha).

Front row: Gertrude (deceased); Jacob; Lauretta (Mrs. Nicholas Pflepsen) St. Cloud; Norbert (married Ruth Williams); Mrs. Schuman; Frances (Mrs. Herman Knipp) Clayton, Wisconsin.

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Koenen came to America from Ostfriesland, Germany, with five children in about 1895. They came to the Aeise Koenen home in Rheiderland and stayed until they settled on their farm in Section 24 in Stoneham Township. Here they lived and farmed until they retired and moved to Clara City. Their children are Tjabe, Katherine, Pete and Harm, who have all passed away, and Jennie (Mrs. Gosseling); Aeise, John Senus all living in Clara City, Henry at Montevideo, and George who lives in California.

Elmer Gosseling and family now lives on the Koenen farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Horney came to Stoneham Township by way of Hazel Run from Indiana in 1902. They and Xavier Suters came together. They shipped their machinery and household goods in a freight car and their livestock in another car and landed in Granite Falls. The Suters took up farming north of Maynard while the Horneys spent one year at Hazel Run and then bought land in Stoneham Township. The family lived in Clara City (what is now Jettie Behrends house) until the buildings were put up on the farm. One evening when Mr. Horney was coming to get lumber for the carpenter work on the farm, lightning struck the tow mill, and the firemen unhitched his team and used these horses to pull the fire engine.

This photo of the Joe Horney family was taken in 1900 by Fred Peterson, a brother-in-law of Fred and Dan Jaenisch. Pictured are: Joe Horney, George (now an invalid), lives with Edmund in South St. Paul; Albert in St. Paul; Herman, St. Paul; Reynold, deceased; Mrs. Rosella (George) Harguth; Mrs. Lena Redpath, deceased; Mrs. Joe Horney; and Mathilda (Mrs. James Brown) Montevideo.

Mr. and Mrs. Horney built a home in Clara City where they lived in retirement. The Dalen Caspers family own that house now.

Mr. and Mrs. B. U. Brummer and their children moved from Emden in Logan County, Illinois, to a 160 acre farm in Stoneham Township 4 miles southwest of Clara City in 1892. They bought the 160 acre farm from Theo. F. and Clara P. Koch for $1837.70. The land was partly broken and there was still a sod shanty in which the family lived for awhile. The following year they built a new house. Best brothers, Althuis, Auden and Jacobs built the house. That house still stands. As time went on they bought adjoining land till they had 320 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Brummer retired in 1912 and bought a house in Clara City and moved in; that is the house now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs.

Geo. Klassen. Mr. and Mrs. Brummer had seven children: Annie (Mrs. C. C. Tebben); Henrietta (Mrs. Else Davids); Upke Brummer; Katie (Mrs. Chris Nelson); Tena (Mrs. Don Slater); Foska (Mrs. Senus Aeikens); Gertie (Mrs. Herman Frieberg) and there were twenty-five grandchildren. The farm is now owned by a grandson Fred K. Aeikens and is operated by Fred and his son Eldon. Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Aeikens now live on the farm.

Mrs. Brummer passed away in 1928 and Mr. Brummer passed away in 1938.

The Andres Andresen family came from Germany in the spring of 1887 and first settled in Breda, Iowa, then in 1888 they came to Clara City and settled in Stoneham Township on a farm 2 miles west of Clara City. They were blessed with five sons, John, William, and Henry who were born in Germany, and Tade and Chris who were born here.

In 1910 they retired from farming and moved to Clara City. Their son, William, took over the home place. Now William's son, Fred and family live there. John, Henry, and Tade also had farms in the same area in Sections 11, 14, and 15. The Henry D. Grussing family lives on the John Andresen farm, Tade's son, Andres A. on his farm, and Martin Andresen lives on his parents farm (the Henry Andresen's). Chris Andresen went into the medical profession and practiced medicine in Seattle, Washington, but is now retired and lives in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Andres Andresen were charter members of the Bethany Reformed Church and Mr. Andresen served on the church board for many years.

Pictured here are Mr. and Mrs. Matteus Aeikens and three of their children, Fred M., Gertie, and Elizabeth. This picture was taken about 1900.

Matteus Aeikens came to our country from Ostfriesland, Germany, with his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Tebben Aeikens, and the following brothers and sisters: Dietrick, Ben, Kassenius, Etta (who married Fred Kramer), Bessie (who was Mrs. John Kielman) and Gertie (who was Mrs. Tjabe Koenen). Brother Dick had come here in 1893, the year before his mother and brothers and sisters.

Swanette Behrends, his fiancee, was waiting for him as she had come on an earlier ship. They were married in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 24, 1894 and from there came to Chippewa County and settled in Section 25, Stoneham Township. They continued to live on this farm until 1939 when they moved to Clara City. They passed away in 1955 and 1956. Fourteen children were born to them, three of whom died in infancy. Gertie (Mrs. Albert Jurgena); Bessie (Mrs. John Reents), Alice (Mrs. Ira Thayer); and Ben have also passed away. Fred M. lives in Clara City, Elizabeth (Mrs. Geo. Knight) in Montevideo; Theda (Mrs. Joe Klosterboer) Willmar; and Susie, Dick, Theodore and Bernard live in the Clara City area. Susie and Theodore live on the home place.

Mr. and Mrs. Behrend Warrings came to this country from Osterfriesland, Germany in 1882. They first located in Illinois where they remained for six years. They came to Chippewa County in 1888 and bought land in Section 34 of Crate. A while later they bought land in Stoneham Township just across the road from their other farm.

Mr. Warrings was always a blacksmith by trade so he didn't really do any farming but carried on his trade out on the farm.

After a few years he built a house in Clara City (Henry Stager Sr. lives in that house now). He carried on his smithing on the corner where Jake Harms later built a house. The main road into Clara City from the north came through on that street then.

Mrs. Warrings died in the early 30's. After she died he lived with his daughter Katherine (or Tena), Mrs. Ole Swanson. He lived to be 99 years old. Tena Swanson Peters was the last one in the Warrings family. She passed away in August, 1963.

With Mrs. Warrings are two daughters of the family, Katherine and Ida, and with Mr. Warrings are the boys, John, Hillern and Herman.

Simon and Anna Tammen moved to this area from Illinois, where they had been farming, one year after the railroad was built through Clara City (about 1887). They purchased 320 acres of prairie which they broke and farmed. This farm is now operated by Henry Fokken.

The first year they farmed in this area Mr. Tammen planted 20 acres of Flint corn, seed which he had brought from Illinois. That fall there were so many wild ducks, geese and cranes that they ate the entire crop of corn.

About ten years later the Tammens purchased the Old Stock farm one mile north of Clara City from the Holland Land Co. They moved to this farm and for many years with the help of his family Simon farmed 1,000 acres of land. John recalls they had as many as 40 head of work horses and colts in the big barn and 20 head of milk cows.

Simon and Anna retired and moved to Clara City in the spring of 1916.

There were 8 children in the Tammen family: Simka (Mrs. W. DeGrote); Reiner, Jennie (Mrs. R. H. Kruger); John S.; George; Simon J., Walter and Anna (Mrs. Alvin Hartzell).

The Kenneth I. Koenen's live on that farm now which is owned by Walter Tammen.

Henry Schaller, son of John and Margertia Schaller, was born May 10, 1874, in Schneckenhe, Germany. He came to America when he was 15 years old. In the year 1889, after being here for a few years, he had to go back to Germany and serve in the army. When he was discharged from the army he returned to the United States, going to Sterling, Ill. Amelia Van Bergen came with her folks from Germany in 1881 when she was 4 years old, and they also settled in Sterling, Illinois. In the year of 1900 they were united in marriage. They were blessed with 5 children, namely, Charlie, (Florence) Mrs. Don Zumbrook, (Emma) Mrs. Lou Thielen, Raymond Schaller, (Fern) Mrs. Harold Sulflow. They lived 4 years in Sterling after their marriage and then came to Minnesota. They moved to a farm 8 miles north of Maynard, lived there for 2 years, and then moved to another farm 6 miles north of Maynard and lived there for 4 years. They then moved to the farm 4½ miles north of Maynard and lived there till they retired from farming in 1940. Then they moved to Maynard. In March of 1958 Henry passed away. Mrs. Schaller is still very active and living in Maynard.

The John Fischers shipped their belongings, horses, cows, machinery, and household goods by rail in two freight cars to Clara City. They came from Clarksville, Iowa, in about the year 1900, and settled in Section 25 Stoneham Township.

They had six children: Ralph, deceased, Ben, Elsie (Mrs. C. K. Tebben), Theda (Mrs. Jake Petersen) of Clara City, Daisy, Portland, Oregon, and George, Escanaba, Michigan.

These three Fischer young ladies walked to Maynard to have this photo taken. At the time Elsie (center) was working in the telephone office in Meyring's Store. Daisy and Theda walked into town 2½ miles and then to Maynard. They walked back home the same afternoon following along the railroad tracks.

Steven Straus was an early settler on Section 16 in Stoneham Township. He and his family came from Germany in 1891. His son Henry and wife

Katherine lived in Stoneham also. Their children were: Lena, Annie, John, all deceased; Katherine of St. Paul, Henry of Maynard, and Nick of Clara City.

Matt Straus, a cousin of the Henry Straus family had land in Section 11 of Stoneham Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Johann Lepler were born in Germany. They came to America in 1888 and settled first in Illinois with their sons, Johann (John) and twin boys, Angelus and Jake.

After two years they moved their belongings in a boxcar to Clara City. Then they bought a farm in Lone Tree Township where they made their home. Meta (Mrs. John Anderson), Claus and Anna (Mrs. Geo. Janssen) were born here. Mr. Lepler died in 1900. Mrs. Lepler remained on the farm with her family until 1912 when she moved into Clara City. She died in 1948 at the age of 88 years.

The Lester Ter Wisschas now live on the Lepler homestead.

Frank Habstritt was born in Goodhue County and grew to manhood there. Early in life he decided to be a farmer and rented land near his home. But after three years he decided to come to new territory because of the crop destruction by chinch bugs in his home county. A six day team and wagon trip brought him to Stoneham Township. Here he was impressed by the fertile-appearing land. His brother, Fred, joined him and together they purchased 120 acres of land from the state for $6 an acre. At the age of 22 years he began tilling the unbroken sod in 1882. He was a bachelor for the first nine years. Neighbors were few and far between. There was a neighbor to the northeast, a man by the name of Erickson, who herded cattle on the site which is now Clara City. Granite Falls, eleven miles away, was the market place. The road to Granite Falls was a mere trail, winding around sloughs.

The coming of the Great Northern (Willmar and Sioux Falls) Railroad in 1887 brought new life to this land. Frank never forgot the thrill and happiness he experienced when that first train puffed its way through his part of the world.

After the coming of the railroad, settlers came in fast. A brother, Charles Habstritt, soon came and bought land near. He, his wife, and family of eight children lived here for several years, disposed of the farm, and moved to Minneapolis, and still later retired in California. Fred also had purchased land adjoining his brother's, but he, too, sold his farm. He then engaged in business in Maynard which he later sold and went to Port Huron, Michigan.

In 1889 Frank went back to Red Wing and married an old schoolmate of his, Carolyne Graber. Four children were born to them. They are: Clayton, of Raymond, Minn.; Gertrude, Mrs. H. T. Foshager; Arthur of St. Cloud; and Frances, Mrs. Rueben Torgenrude of Phoenix, Arizona.

The Habstritts took an active interest in the political, social, and religious life in the community. Mr. Habstritt served on the township and school boards for several years and as township assessor for 23 years. Mrs. Habstritt passed away in 1939 in their home in Willmar. Mr. Habstritt lived with his children after her death. He died in 1948 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Foshager in Clara City.

Mr. Habstritt often spoke of the trying times those first years, of coming from the field work, lighting fire in the cook stove, putting his evening meal on to cook and falling asleep in a chair while waiting for his supper to get done. Maybe the fire would go out, and the potatoes wouldn't be done, and he'd go to bed without a warm meal.

Some neighbors who first came settling around his farm had no seed grain or money with which to buy any. To help them get started he would supply them with seed to plant and they would repay him after harvest. Mr. Habstritt often remarked about the honesty of these settlers and their accounts, as everyone repaid his loan.

John and Thereasa Freisleben settled here from Waseca in the year of 1899 on a farm southwest of Clara City which was known as the Deason farm. A son Wenzel lived on the farm until 1941. Mrs. Almeta Koenen and family now reside there. Their children were: (none are living now) Rev. Joseph Freisleben, John Freisleben, George, Wenzel, Sister Hedwig (Gertrude), Katie (Mrs. Will Broderick), Anna (Mrs. Peter P. Thein), Louise (Mrs. Clem Schulte).

Elso and John Davids lived on the farm now owned by the Condon's. They often walked into town evenings. This particular evening they had been in town and Martin Reyer, who lived a little farther south, walked with them. As they were coming home they found Henry Franken, a bachelor neighbor, lying in the trail. John and Martin picked up the ends of the fur coat he was wearing and Elso lifted his head. They carried him to his home which was about a mile away. When they got there he stood up and said, "Thank you, boys. You did a good job of that. You'd better come in and have a cup of coffee." Mr. Franken was quite a practical joker.

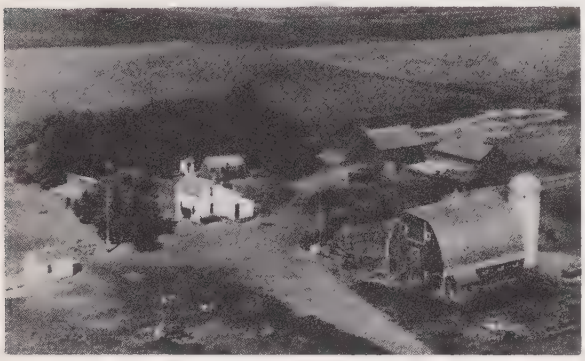
What is Meant by Company Houses?

In the year 1886 the Holland Syndicate purchased a total of 15,000 acres of land from Prins and Koch. In the early part of 1887, the Holland Land Company leased to Prins and Koch 30 quarter sections of land which they had bought. It was understood that they were to sell these rent farms within 10 years. To induce settlers to come, a well, some buildings, a house, and a barn were to be put on each quarter section. The Holland Land Company agreed to furnish the money for these buildings, each set alike, on all these farms. Hence, the expression "company houses" came from these houses being built alike.

Fred Jaenisch, although being a very young boy at the time, helped John and Bill Best build these houses, about 16'x16' in size. Each house had a "lean-to" about half the width of the house, along one side. This lean-to was to be used as a kitchen

and storage room. To keep the hay or flax straw dry for fuel it was often kept in here.

The 16' by 16' was divided into two rooms. To the side in one of these rooms was a narrow stairway which led to an unfinished room above. Because this bedroom was unfinished and the ceiling low, it was most uncomfortable winter or summer. One can understand why feather beds and quilts, and wool coverlets were used when one hears about those folks awakening mornings seeing frost hanging on the open rafters. Imagine this same room under the blazing summer sun on a treeless prairie and no air-conditioning!



This farmstead, occupied by Gordon Jaenisch shows the last known company house to be used in this area. It was sold and moved about six years ago to a Clark farm near DeGraff.

Here is a close-up of another company house on the R. Korn farm. (Crate). It was torn down in 1911.

Woods Township

Woods township was set off for organization in July 1879. It is located in township 119, range 37. The county commissioners named the first officers in this town because the legal voters failed to show up at the appointed meeting place. The first officers appointed were: W. M. Curtis, chairman; J. C. Records and Ephriam Martin, supervisors; Allen Weatherby, clerk; Frank Cain, assessor; D. J. Atchison, treasurer; Valentine Eppel and W. H. Case, justices; Theodore Pritchard and M. Kelly, constables.

About 1870 the even numbered sections were offered for sale at private entry and much of the land fell into the hands of speculators. George B. Wright, a well-known U. S. Government land surveyor located large tracts of land for Gustavus A. Austin, a New England capitalist. Most of the odd numbered sections were sold to a land syndicate headed by Judge Wm. W. Woods of Ohio. It was for him the township was named. The land belonging to the Woods syndicate was plowed up. Large buildings were built on several sections but this bonanza farming proved unprofitable. Upon the death of Judge Woods these farms were sold. Hanford L. Gordon operated one of these large farms in Section 25 for several years, but finally gave it up.

Earl Bauman who lives on the N. W. ¼ of Section 3 still has one of those large barns. It is 54'x100'. This farm was purchased from F. E. Hopkins in 1906.

According to records the first settlers were Mons Olson and his son, William, who came in 1876. However, no other facts were given about them.

Allen Weatherby, John C. Records, and H. P. Barrager took land in Section 18. Weatherby must have moved from the town before 1900 as his name does not appear then.

Andrew Norrander and family were early settlers of Woods, farming in Section 19. Mr. and Mrs. Norrander remained on this farm until their deaths in the 1930's. Their children were: Arthur, Carl, Rudolph, Olga, Marian, Hilmer, and Annette (Mrs. B. Williams).

As of now, no one lives in the buildings and Ben Timmons owns the farm.

Herman Walleen became a neighbor of the Norranders in Section 19 about 1901 or 02. He and Mrs. Walleen and family first lived in Kandiyohi County. They spent the rest of their lives on this farm. They passed away in the 1940's. They had a family of ten children, namely: Oscar, Albin,

Rueben, Waldo, Roy, Lillian, Ruby, Edith, Mabel, and Viola.

The Maurice Rables live on that farm now.

Elias Hultgren settled on Section 30 near Eppel's Lake in 1888. He bought one of the three known tree claims in this area. He later bought another farm on Section 29. On these farms he developed and improved the buildings and had thirteen acres of groves. He served as clerk of the school board and also was an active participant in township affairs. He served in the capacity of supervisor and clerk on the town board.

He was married to Martha Hanson who had also come from Sweden. To Mr. and Mrs. Hultgren were born seven children: Agnes, George, Edla, Edith (Mrs. Earl Sommerville), all deceased, Esther (Mrs. Oscar Walleen) Clara City; Walter, Raymond, Minnesota; and Elsie (Mrs. Lyman Armstrong of Owatonna, Minnesota).

Mr. Hultgren's grandson, Lawrence, says he remembers how his grandfather valued trees and hated to see trees being ruined or destroyed because they had been so hard to get started out on the prairies.

John Anderson was an early settler in Woods. He took land in Section 32. He was quite a clever artisan. He constructed a home made grist mill on his farm that was operated by wind power.

The Oscar Walleen family moved into Woods township in 1902, or thereabouts. They owned land in Section 20 where the Robert Schorns live now. They had four daughters and one son, namely: Edna (Mrs. Arthur Norrander); Della (Mrs. Edward Beck); Esther (Mrs. Rudolph Norrander); Selma (Mrs. Raymond Benson), and Quince.

The M. E. Skoglunds were old time settlers on Section 30. They came about 1885 and raised a large family of whom five are now living, Ida, Victor, Albert, Edith, and David. The Skoglund descendants live in and around the Willmar area. The family left Woods township and lived near Grove City for a time. The Harm De Grotes live on that farm now.

There are only three known family names of the original settlers left in Woods township. Mrs. Pete Halvorson who lives in Kerkhoven now. Her daughter, Mrs. Wahlstrom, lives on the Halvorson farm. The R. J. Sommerville farm which is still in the family and the Elias Hultgren farm on which Lawrence Hultgren and family now reside.

There were six organized school districts in Woods at one time: Districts 43, 75, 76, 79, 83, and 85.

In the spring of 1908 District 85 was formed. On September 1st, 1908, the first school election was held and the following officers were elected: Oscar Walleen, clerk; Lester Armstrong, director for two years; and Julius Meyer, director for three years. At the meeting held on November 18, 1908, the district was bonded for $1,200 to be used to buy a school site and to pay the expenses for the first year. The first day of school was held on February 8, 1909, with Miss Carrie Whittemore as teacher. On September 6, 1963, the present school board, Robert Schorn, clerk; Joe Bestge, and Rance Bents, directors called a special meeting for the purpose of starting proceedings to dissolve the district and join other districts. This was passed so in time District 85 will be just a memory.

These are some of the families who had attended this school: The Lester Armstrongs, Charlie Schlueters, Harold Johnsons, Jake Schorns, George Groebners, Frank Browns, Oscar Walleens, and Jake Freeses.

The other five districts closed before this transporting their children to Kerkhoven, Clara City, and Raymond.

Relative to churches in Chippewa County, it appears that only one was built in Woods township. It was in the year 1900 when Rev. F. W. Hill was pastor at the Methodist Episcopal church in Raymond, that a new church was added to his charge about 7 miles northwest of Raymond, under the name of Woods Methodist Episcopal Church, on land now owned and operated by Ben Asche, the church being built on the N½NE¼ Section 33. The church was served by Pastors F. W. Hill, J. P. Hess, G. W. B. Snall, R. C. Manley, Cummings, Watson and others in the early days. Elias Hultgren was one of the founders of this congregation. When automobiles became common the members of this church generally attended church service in Raymond, and after standing vacant for a number of years, the Woods people gave the building to the Raymond Methodist church. In 1927 the structure was dismantled, and the lumber salvaged, taken to Raymond, where it was used in the construction of a new church there that same year. The land occupied for church purposes was later on sold to Ben Asche and returned to the tract from which it was originally taken.

These two views of Maynard were taken from the tracks looking north. This street runs parallel with the railroad and this picture was taken in July of 1904.

Village of Maynard

The history of Maynard began thirty or more years before it was incorporated into a Village, thus we have pioneer history of an entire farm community.

In this Jubilee year of 1963, it seems very fitting to reflect on the past and pay respects to the early pioneers who have paved the way for the younger generations and whose hardships are almost unbelievable. They came in oxen drawn covered wagons with no roads and nothing but tall grass everywhere. Homes were dug-outs in the hillsides with earth floor, thatched roof, or sod houses with no windows of glass and with home-made candles for light and slough-hay twisted into knots for fuel. Severe blizzards came up in the winter so suddenly that many were lost or frozen to death with their oxen, while cutting trees near the river for fire-wood. In the summer the mosquitoes were bad and in the fall there was the dread of prairie fires. Many would plow a furrow around their farms to help keep the fires at a distance. They would walk a distance of about thirty miles to Benson, in 1871, when the railroad had reached that point and carry home on their backs, sacks of flour, salt, and sugar. In the fall several of those hardy pioneers would load their wheat on wagons and trek to New London, where the nearest grist mill was, to have their wheat ground into flour. Many times when the water was deep in the creeks they had to unload and carry the wheat across and load it up again on the other side because the water would cover the wagons and they would have to walk waist-deep in water. These rugged pioneers who braved the elements were granted 160 acres of land under the provisions of the Homestead Act of 1861.

In the year of 1857 the United States Government deeded a tract of land to the territory of Minnesota for construction of railroads. It contained 1440 acres to be incorporated into the Village of Maynard. This was signed by 181 residents and was sworn to by H. S. Anderson, John Listerud and James Hawkland, before a Notary Public and filed with the Board of County Commissioners on Nov. 21, 1896. An election was held to determine whether or not Maynard should be incorporated. With 24 voters present it was approved by a 23 to 1 vote. Thus in 1896 we became a Village.

The Village of Maynard is built on Spicer's land. It was so called because a man by the name of John Spicer, who was a pioneer citizen of Willmar and Kandiyohi county, was also the owner of the townsite from Willmar to Sioux Falls, S. D. The Village of Spicer on Green Lake was named for him.

County Surveyor Lycurgus Moyer laid out the streets and lots so that the people might build stores and homes. Front street along the railway was called Spicer avenue. Main street running north and south was called Cynthia Avenue. Other streets were named Sherman, Mason, Agnes, Jessie, Mabel, Amy and Ruth.

In 1887 the Great Northern Railway company graded the bed for the new road. Horses and mules pulled the two-handled scrapers which moved the dirt filling in the sloughs and abutment to the bridges. In 1888 the first rails were laid, spiked to the wooden ties or crosspieces. Then the trains began operating. We had two passenger trains in the day time and two passenger trains during the night besides freight trains. The railroad was laid before the town was laid out and that accounts for the town not lying directly North, South, East or West.

Maynard, like other small towns, had its share of fires in the early days when equipment wasn't the most up to date. In the year 1908 a whole block burned to the ground except one building and that was the Citizen's state bank on the corner built in 1900. The first store to burn was the Fred Habstritt department store, the Rupt Harness shop, Toby Johnson's grocery store, Mrs. George Lawrence's Millinery store, Grandma Rees' Candy Shop and the Post Office.

In 1925 another fire wiped out another block which consisted of the Taplin Drug Store, the Nelson Storage building, Nels Weberg grocery, John

Wheels of progress—loading lumber in Maynard on June 20th, 1910.

Baker Jewelry, the Maynard News office and the Albert Rhode shoe store.

The year 1911 marked another big fire when two store buildings were consumed by fire when a shortage of water gave the fire fighters a hard time.

The year 1918 was also marred by a severe fire than took several buildings on Main street, across from the depot. The flour mill was also destroyed by fire when the water shortage handicapped the fire fighters, even though it happened on a still night with no wind.

The first water system was an artesian well drilled in 1904, around which was constructed a 16x16 wooden reservoir. Up to this time there were no private services from this system, until in 1912 when the new Maynard bank was built and this was the first water mains that were laid. A new Village building with fire station and water pumping and pressure tank were purchased. Hydrants were installed and private drainage lines were laid from the homes.

In 1911 the people realized the need for electric light and power. By a majority vote it was decided to build a 2300 volt transmission line to Granite Falls and wire the town for 110 Volt three-phase service. Council members at that time were: Tom Soine, Frank Fredine, Olaf Hart, Victor Ramberg and Ole Wefsenmore Sr. Six farmers requested and received rights to tie in on the transmission lines. L. A. Sanner was the city engineer for the electric power and water works and served in that capacity for about 26 years. He was a contractor and built about 20 homes in and around Maynard and many business places.

In the year 1918 those in business were: Gustafson Bros. Auto dealers; H. F. Kesting, barber; F. E. Nelson, livery; Kray & Harris, auctioneers; O. M. Bean, Wood and coal; Mike Mooney, agent for Thompson yards; Ole Strand, dray; John Tyvold, carpenter; H. L. Shand, Cashier of Home State Bank; Olaf J. Hart, General Merchandise; Wm. Hubel Sr., Cream and Produce; W. C. Thompson, Cashier for Maynard State Bank; C. P. Peterson, General Merchandise; Dr. R. D. Zimbeck; Tom Berg, Shoe Shop; W. H. Cornwright, Meat Market; B. O. Docken, Harness shop; Willard Norborg, Auctioneer.

SCHOOLS

The very first school house used in the Village of Maynard was a county district building located on the southeast corner of the Hartney farm mentioned earlier. (This building is still standing today) This building was also used for religious meetings by the Lutherans before they built their church.

In 1892 however, a four room school building with two halls, one of which was used for a Library, was erected on the present Sanner homesite. The Principal was a man named Bert B. Wells. Mrs. Sophie Hazen and Mrs. Amanda Fredine were among the early instructors. Other early instructors were Mr. Don M. Benedict who was superintendent and Miss Olga Carlson who was Principal.

The first graduating class of the Maynard high school were Leo Hartney, Georgina Erlandson, Francis Barager, Hattie Peterson, and Marie Gustafson. The diplomas were presented by the Rev. M. B. Erickson. Those graduating from the eighth grade were Elmer Carlson, Annie Carlson, Milton Fredine, Mary Hartney, Edith Nelson, and Ruth Weberg. The Commencement was given in the Maynard Opera House which was on the third floor of the West Hotel. Mr. Kelly was the Professor and Principal.

In 1916 a new school house was completed at its present site east of the village. The first graduating class in 1916 was Mae Ashmore Dahleen, Violet Olson Beltman, Paul Thompson and Verna Barager. There were only three teachers at that time and they were Mr. Chris C. Amos who was Superintendent, Miss Greta Tregoning who taught Home Economics and Science, and Miss Blanche Severson, who taught History and English and was also Principal.

This school was built in 1892.

Students of the above school taken about 1907.

In 1935 an addition was added to the present school on the east side and in 1954 a large new gymnasium was added to the west side and a new grade school on the east side with many other rooms being remodeled and revised.

This year of 1963 we have 20 teachers employed, three cooks, two janitors, and seven bus drivers. There are 389 students enrolled and our school is consolidated school district 127.

SNOWSTORM OF 1873

It was a fine morning on January 7, 1873 and was especially warm. The Saron church was having its annual meeting which was to be held at the Ole Anderson home. About noon the sky became cloudy and it started to snow and blow. In the afternoon a big storm came up and visibility was poor. There were about thirty-five men who attended this meeting in the one-room log house. There were 38 with Mrs. Andrson and child. Pastor Edward Erickson, who was pastor for both Maynard and Saron was there and devotion took place every day. The storm grew worse and it got colder and the wood which had been chopped gave out and the pile of wood outside was completely covered with snow, but there were some wood rails near the house so the men made a line from the house to the pile and one by on they handed the rails to each other until they had enough wood to hold out. A few days before this storm, Mr. Anderson had gone to New London and purchased a sack of flour and a gallon of syrup. From this mush was made which they lived on for the two and a half days that the storm was raging. The wife and children were given the bed to sleep on and the men took turns sleeping under the bed. A big brown wooly dog was brought along by one of the members and he kept them warm while they slept.

On the third day around four o'clock the storm let up but no one was allowed to go home alone. At this time there were only two log houses around this section of the country, the other people living in dugouts and sod houses. At one farm a group of men had to start digging the cattle out of the stalls so they could move around a little, and Ole Wefsenmoe was helping shovel out snow and discovered a rooster which actually jumped out of the snow and crowed.

Blizzard of 1909—Main street in Maynard. Tom Soine, Hjalmer Anderson, Ray Barager, Ernest Gustafson, L. A. Senner, William Cornwright, Ole Berge and Nels Swanson.

SEVERE BLIZZARD OF 1898

During one of our brief interviews we learned a very interesting account of the snow storm of 1898. This was one of the worst storms ever to be recorded in the history of Maynard. The trains were stuck for about two days. The next spring there were three engines lying on the icy tracks between Maynard and Clara City. A lot of hard work was required to move these and pull them on the track again. It was reported that near the Hartney farm the snow was in drifts 75 feet high. When spring came, the snow began to melt slowly, but there were still signs of snow on the fourth of July. This may sound fantastical, but nevertheless it is the truth. The older people of Maynard can recall such an occurrence.

We have been told that the blizzard of 1909 had a rather amusing incident. A farmer reported that after 41 days under the snow two turkeys emerged none the worse for their hibernation. They were considerably thinner but soon picked that up after a few weeks.

MAYNARD CHURCHES

In spite of the size of the community, Maynard has three flourishing congregations, which reflect to this generation the heritage given us by our Christian forefathers.

On July 21, 1897 a petition requesting the organization of a Lutheran church in Maynard was signed by twenty-five men. The congregation was officially organized and its constitution was adopted in the carpenter shop owned by Christ Gjevre. According to the records, the charter members were: Ole Remmen, Edward Erlandson, Tom I. Soine, Andrew O. Vold, Gustav Carlson, August Johnson, John Swenson, John Johnson, Jerome Jorgenson, Toby Johnson, John North, Christ Soine, Ole Gjevre, A. T. Hoverstad, and Christ Gjevre and their families.

A call was extended on September 28, 1897 to Rev. Edward Erickson and Rev. M. B. Erickson (Father and Son) to serve as pastors in this newly organized field. This call was accepted at a salary of $75.00 a year. The new schoolhouse built that same year was used for their meetings until a new church could be built. This was accomplished in the Spring of 1899 under the direction of Christ Gjevre, who also built the altar and the pulpit for the church. In 1904 Rev. Edward Erickson resigned and another son O. J. Erickson was called to serve with his brother M. B. Erickson. They served until 1944 when Rev. M. B. Erickson had served nearly 50 years in the service of the Lord.

Rev. Edward Erickson

Rev. B. M. Erickson

The Presbyterian church of Maynard was the outgrowth of Sabbath school work begun by Mr. Thomas Scotten in 1894. As is usual in such cases, the presence of a sabbath school led the people to feel that they should have a church. A petition was sent to Presbytery and a committee was appointed and the record shows that the Maynard church was organized August 1, 1897 by Rev. A. W. Wright, pastor at large. No other member of the committee being present. The church building was dedicated on May 4, 1902. The trustees were: J. R. Eimers, William C. Thompson, Fred Habstritt, E. A. Laidlaw and Nels Norborg.

From 1897 to 1906, nine pastors served this parish and were: Rev. A. W. Wright, Rev. T. M. Findley, Rev. J. G. Reinhard, Rev. T. M. Findley, Rev. T. F. M. Clark, Rev. C. E. Davenport, Rev. Joseph Gaston, Mr. Frank H. Throop and Rev. L. Colyn.

It was when the homes were built of sod and covered with prairie grass that the Swedish Baptist church was organized with five charter members, in the Leenthrop country church. The first church

edifice was built in 1884 and four years later the parsonage was built. In the year 1905 work was started in the Village of Maynard and the change to the English language was made.

James Hartney was the first Civil War veteran to settle on a homestead in Maynard. He took up his homestead in the year of 1872 which is just one half mile north of Maynard. He was married to Ellen Wellsworth in the year 1876 and they had nearly 50 years of wedded life until his death in 1925. This home is still in use today. We were told that Mr. Hartney was wounded on the battlefield in the Civil War and had lain for 48 hours before given attention.

Two early pioneers were G. H. Hazen and John Swift.

Garret Hazen was born in Germany in 1872 and was a resident of Maynard for thirty-eight years before he passed away at the age of 60 years. He was a railroad station agent in Maynard for 11 years. He was manager of the Northwestern Elevator for several years and also managed the Thompson Lumber Co. for many years. He served in public offices and was one of our early pioneers who did much to help in the growth of Maynard.

Mr. John Swift was one of Maynard's foremost citizens and deserves a lot of credit for the development and growth of this Village. He was born in 1860 and came to Maynard with his mother in the year 1881. She died a few years later, but he remained a single man, and was 85 years old at the time of his death.

Mr. Swift acquired considerable property both in Maynard and on the farm and part of the Village plat is known as "Swift's addition" which was subdivided into lots for homes. In World War I he offered to match his gift of corn with any other gift for the starving people of Europe and as a result of his generosity two carloads of corn were sent from this small community. He was instrumental in the building of several stores in Maynard and with organizing a bank, known as the Farmers and Merchants Bank which later was consolidated with the Maynard State Bank.

Another pioneer, Tom Soine, came to Maynard in about 1894 and was clerk in Toby Johnson's store and also postmaster until 1896 when his brother Christ took over as postmaster. Tom was Maynard's second postmaster and his brother Christ was the third. We were told that Tom was a Democrat while Christ was a Republican and the former had the postmastership during Cleveland's last administration, but when the Democratic rule in Congress went out with Cleveland, and the Republican party gained prestige by the election of McKinley, Democrat Tom lost his post office job to his Republican brother Christ. In 1896 Tom and his brother Christ and Hans Huseby built a store where Paulson's Hardware now stands. They sold out in 1915.

Another hardy pioneer was Ole J. Wefsenmoe, who came to Minnesota from Norway in 1868. He and his brother Nels walked from Nicollet county to Chippewa county and homesteaded. He operated a general store in Maynard in 1902 and was Village recorder for four years. He helped organize the Saron Lutheran church and was its first secretary. He was a well respected citizen and lived to be 94 years of age.

Ole J. Wefsenmoe Sr.

Frank I. Fredine, came to Maynard in 1898 and clerked in a hardware store for John Swift for several years. He then operated the Farmers Elevator for several years. In 1911 he bought an interest in the E. A. Hanson company, general merchandise, furniture and undertaking and has been active in church and civic affairs. He was justice of the peace for several years and was president of the school board for fifteen years.

Otto A. Dahleen was another prominent citizen who came to this country in the year 1880. He was cashier in the Maynard State bank when it was first organized in 1900 and remained in that capacity for 28 years until his death in 1929.

E. A. Hanson, was born in Janesville, Wisconsin in 1867 and came to Maynard in 1902 when he entered the Mercantile business in company with W. C. Thompson, Jack Thompson, and D. A. McLarty, and under the firm name of E. A. Hanson & Co. Soon after that F. I. Fredine became a member. Mr. Hanson became sole owner in 1916, and in 1920 sold out to W. H. Harris. For eighteen years he was a leading merchant in Maynard, and later he was engaged in the Real Estate business.

John Simonson and Martin Leithe (Brothers).

Another early pioneer and business man who came to Maynard in 1902 was Martin Leithe. At the tender age of 17 he owned and operated the Excelo Shoe Store and did shoe repairing as a sideline. He was active in band and civic affairs and took an active interest in the development of Maynard. He made a couple of trips to Norway where he met his future wife. Maynard still holds his interest and

Maynard's first brass band organized in 1902, A. J. Shaver, director. Carl Erlandson, Harry Berge, Martin Leithe, Frank Fredine, Alfred Olander, Mark Gustafson, George Berge, Ernest Gustafson, Charles Peterson, Ole Hellstrom, Lawrence Sanner, Christ Nybakke, Dan Mc Coy, Alfred W. Johnson and George Peterson.

he makes frequent trips here to visit with the old timers. His home is now in Fertile, Minnesota.

W. H. Cornwright came to Minnesota in 1889 and in the year 1905 began buying and shipping livestock in Maynard. He also had the Meat Market at that time and helped organize the Home State Bank in the year 1910, of which he was Vice President. He sold his market to Oscar H. Schimmel in the year 1919.

Ole B. Berge, another pioneer operated a hotel in Maynard. He was a rural mail carrier for a time also managed a meat market. He was born in Lillehammer, Norway in 1864 and his wife was born in a covered wagon near St. Peter in 1868. Mr. Berge has played a big part in the early history of Maynard and took an active lead in the affairs of the Village.

Gust Carlson, was a hardy pioneer who came here from Sweden where he and his wife were married in 1882. Gust was a section foreman in the early days of the railroad for 36 years, and took an active interest in both church and civic affairs. He and his wife enjoyed sixty years of wedded life together before her death in 1942. He was a man of integrity and honesty and passed away about a year after his wife, and was nearly 85 years of age.

MAYNARD'S FIRST CREAMERY

Maynard's first creamery was erected in 1898 on the Northeast corner of the present R. C. Pederson farm. It was owned by the farmers, who brought in the milk and waited for it to be separated. They had two large steam driven separators and a churn. The farmers took the skim milk back home for their pigs. This creamery also had an artesian well that was 100 feet deep. The first buttermaker was Dan McCoy, a lanky Irishman, who acted as caller for the square dances held on the third floor of the Holian Hall, often referred to as the "Opera House."

The first automobile in Maynard was a Metz, owned by Olof Hawkinson, and it was a 1904 model. It had no top and no fenders. It had a small engine mounted on the rear axel, and a long handle for steering. It had slats for the body with a chair-like seat for the driver and one passenger. In the year of 1910 there were five automobiles in Maynard.

The first Fire Department was started in the year of 1892. Hand-drawn equipment such as brass-trimmed gasoline fire-pumper, two-horse carts, and hook and ladder cart were used. Then in the year of 1901 the fire department was re-organized by a man named Bert B. Wells who was also Principal of the Village school in the North end of town. In the year 1927 the council purchased a one and a half ton Chevrolet and the men of the fire department built the truck. They belonged to the State Firemen's Association, and at the present time there are three fire trucks and one rural tanker in use. Two honorary firemen living today are Mr. L. A. Sanner and Mr. George Berge.

MAYNARD'S FIRST BAND

The first brass band was started in 1902 and nicknamed the "Swedish Vint Band" by jokesters. The conductor was A. J. Shaver, who was also the postmaster for several years. It was later called the "Cornet" band and it furnished music for many years in Maynard and in the neighboring towns. Those in the original band were: Carl Erlandson (12 years old), Harry Berge, Martin Leithe, Frank Fredine, Alfred Olander, Mark Gustafson, George Berge, Ernest Gustafson, Charles Peterson, Ole Hellstrom, L. A. Sanner, Christ Nybakke, Dan McCoy, Alfred W. Johnson, and George Peterson.

The band was reorganized and called the "Citizen's" band and in the year 1908 it was considered at its best. A Minneapolis paper dubbed it the "Silver Band" and after 13 years of playing it broke up. Members of this band were: L. A. Sanner, Elmer Johnson, George Peterson, Martin Leithe, Sander Johnson, Victor Peterson, Olaf Hawkinson, Elmer Peterson, E. M. Gustafson, Charles Peterson, Victor Ramberg, Willie Peterson, F. I. Fredine, George Miller, Albert Peterson and E. A. Hanson.

The first newspaper was published in Maynard on the 12th of November 1901 and edited by A. J. Shaver. The paper was called the "Maynard Progress" and was continued by Mrs. Shaver for a number of years. In 1911 Paul Dehnel took it over and gave it the name of the "Maynard News" and then in 1914 a number of local business men took it over and leased it to a Mr. Wolstencroft and later to M. Jay Launcelot. Then in 1917 Fred Child took

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Child, Editor of Maynard News

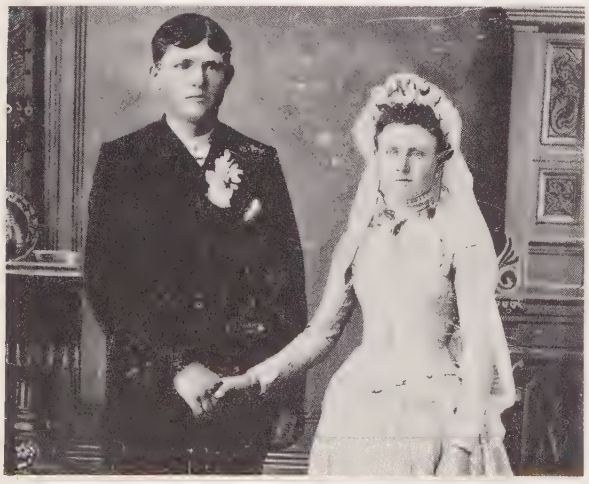
over for 42 years and later his son, Fay George Child. Burnett Shelrud was the next owner and Art Bredeson and his wife had it for about a year when they sold it back to the present owner, B. Shelrud.

In 1888 three farmers made the first shipment of grain from Maynard, as there were no elevators at that time. However, soon afterwards, a grain elevator was erected by Van-Dusin-Harrington with James Hawkland as the grain buyer.

In the year of 1902, Maynard had five elevators, namely the Farmers, the Northwestern, the Thorpe, the Atlas and the Independent. There was also one flour-mill, one feed-mill, two blacksmith shops, two doctors, two hardware stores, five grocery stores, a lawyer, a millinery shop. drug store, two livery barns, three lumber yards, two banks, two hotels, one candy store and a post office.

The first postmaster was a man by the name of Rossing. There were three rural mail carriers namely, Hans O. Huseby for Route 1, Ole G. Gjevre for Route 2 and Joe Johnston for rural Route 3.

An early lumber yard was owned and operated by Edward Dresser in the year 1889. There were no restaurants or cafes at this time. The first restaurant was opened in 1897 by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kramer Sr.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kramer Sr. Operated first cafe in Maynard.

The Drug Store was operated by Dr. Tickton in 1897. He was assisted by Martin Strand. George Lien, Edward Hanson and Henry Anderson had the store which later was taken over by Andrew Vold. Fred Habscritt had a store where the Beasleys now have a cafe, except that it has been replaced by a new building. Ole Berge had the first butcher shop in Maynard. The Village blacksmith was Elling Johnson, E. T. Skrukrud and Engebretson ran the first flour mill. John Swift ran the first feed mill and wood mill and also the first cement works. Mrs. George Lawrence had the first millinery store and Grandma Rees had the candy store. Mr. Rupt was the village harness maker. The Gjevre Brothers had a store as did the Soine Brothers and Hans Huseby. Toby Johnson also had a grocery store, and W. C. Thompson was a banker. In the year 1897 Mr. K. H. Holian had a telephone installed in his home and extended to the West Hotel which he operated. This was the first telephone in Maynard and the Central office was begun in 1901.

First telephone operators in Maynard, Miss Marie Sloan and Miss Mamie Holian.

Knute Holian also operated the first bank in Maynard in 1897 and which building is still standing today and is located next to the present creamery. The West Hotel, which he managed, along with the bank was located where Mrs. De Lella Hubel now lives. Mr. Holian was elected to the Legislature and was engrossing clerk in the House of Representatives. He was justice of the peace for about 53 years and married about 40 couples.

The first store in Maynard was by two men named Cowie and Carroll. Listerud Brothers had the first hardware store.

First Bank of Maynard owned by by K. H. Holian in 1897. Otto Gjerde, Ed Erlandson, Bert Listerud, Knute Holian and Ole Anton Thompson. Building still in use today.

General store—taken about 1910 with Thrond Engebretson as owner. Note gas light in ceiling, pails, sheepskin coats, fancy clock, child's dresser, hatpins on top of the show-case. Note advertising of "Neal's Carriage Paint" at right. This store is still in use today and is known as "Brown's Corner Market."

Space does not permit the history of all of the early pioneers and businessmen, but they all played an important role in the beginning of the Village of Maynard. Some of these are: F. I. Fredine, A. W. Johnson, Andrew Vold, Nels and Willard Norborg, Dr. R. D. Zimbeck, W. H. Cornwright, Ole B. Barge, Mike Mooney, John Olson, John Swift, Garret Hazen, W. C. Thompson, Otto Dahleen, Tom Berg, Martin Leithe, Lawrence Sanner, Ed Erlandson, H. L. Strand, Andrew Hoverstad, E. A. Hanson, James Hartney, Sigle Harbour, Hans Huseby, Ole Gjevre, Joe Johnston, Fred and Frank Habstritt, Andrew Bredeson, K. H. Holian, Martin Bakken, Christ Nybakke, O. A. Remmen, Christ and Tom Soine, Ole K. Norswing, Dr. Helland, Dr. Tickton, Dr. Matchen, Louis Fernald, Toby Johnson, Lawrence Millinery, Rees Candy store, A. J. Shaver, J. Jorgenson, Bennie Docken, O. H. Schimmel, C. P. Peterson, Christ Gjevre, Gust Carlson, A. A. Hagen, Thrond Engebretson, R. L. McNeil, Milton Fredine, James Hawkland, W. H. Harris, G. C. Shelrud, John Norman, Gerde and Berge, Livery, H. F. Kesting, O. J. Hart, Tom Berg, M. M. Sorenson, Victory Ramberg, Pete Hanson, Carl Erlandson, Philip Halling, Carl Anderson, William Kramer Sr., Wm. Hubel Sr., Frank Taplin, George Berge, Albert Holien, W. M. Dixon, Dave Underwood, Nels Swanson, R. O. Moe, Ole Wefsenmoe, John Tyvold, Herman Gustafson and many others.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AND AUXILIARY

The Hoilan-Thompson Post No. 252 was organized shortly after the first World War and it was named for Halbert Holian, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. H. Holian and Bill Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Thompson who died in the service of their country.

The Legion Auxiliary was organized shortly thereafter and Mrs. K. H. Holian was its first president. There were 56 charter members namely: Mrs. K. H. Holian, Mrs. D. F. Hawkland, Mrs. L. S. Martinson, Mrs. LeRoy Dahleen, Mrs. W. H. Kramer, Mrs. Alvin Skjefte, Mrs. Wm. Kramer, Mrs. Iver Soine, Mrs. Martin Soine, Mrs. A. O. Anderson, Mrs. Fred Uttermark, Miss Francis B. Weberg, Mrs. Sherman Hartlep, Mrs. R. M. Rodeberg, Mrs. R. L. Walcott, Mrs. B. C. Vold, Mrs. Carl Wegner, Mrs. Theo Dyshaw, Mrs. Mary L. Thompson, Mrs. A. O. Vold, Mrs. Nels Christianson, Mrs. W. N. Heschke, Mrs. Ed Kelly, Mrs. Geo. Rasmussen Sr., Mrs. R. C. Pederson, Mrs. Melvin Carter, Mrs. A. T. McNab, Mrs. Albert Hubel, Mrs. Maurice Himley, Miss Effel Holian, Miss Ce Bella Holian, Mrs. E. P. Gerde, Mrs. H. A. Blakesley, Mrs. Elvin Docken, Mrs. Carl Knutson, Mrs. John Weberg, Mrs. Melvin Flaten, Miss Ruth Dyshaw, Miss Dorothy Dahleen, Mrs. Nels Nordby, Mrs. Andrew Dahleen, Mrs. Walter Ashmore, Mrs. Pearl McClung, Mrs. H. M. Swam, Mrs. Almer Olson, Mrs. Harry Baker, Miss Myrtle Harbour, Mrs. Oscar Nordby, Mrs. L. E. Keethe, Miss Blanche M. Holian, Mrs. Leonard M. Hilton, Mrs. Theodore Reinholt, Mrs. Christ Boike, Mrs. John Tammen, Mrs. John Marholz, Mrs. Alva Robinson.

SENATOR FAY GEORGE CHILD

Senator Fay George Child was elected to the Senate in 1950 and has served his district well in the past 13 years that he has held that office. He was re-elected to the senate in 1962 for another four-year term. He has been editor of several newspapers in Minnesota for more than 22 years. He was director of Public Relations for the State Department of Agriculture, State Vice President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Administrative assistant to Congressman Harold C. Hagen of Washington, D. C. Served as Mayor of Maynard and has had many other civic and State appointments. He has been instrumental in the passing of various bills in the Legislature. He is an experienced speaker and has participated frequently in debates of the University and on radio and television. He is a product of Maynard and we are proud of the record he has made while in office.

Senator Fay George Child

Maynard Belles in the early days — Anna, Mathilda and Marie Sloan (sisters), Mamie Holian, Christine Gjevre and Frances Barager.

Star boarders at the Bennie Docken restaurant in the year 1910 were: Otto Nelson, Albert Peterson, Carl Anderson, Harry Lindberg, Lawrence Sanner, Ole Lerohl and Thomas Berg.

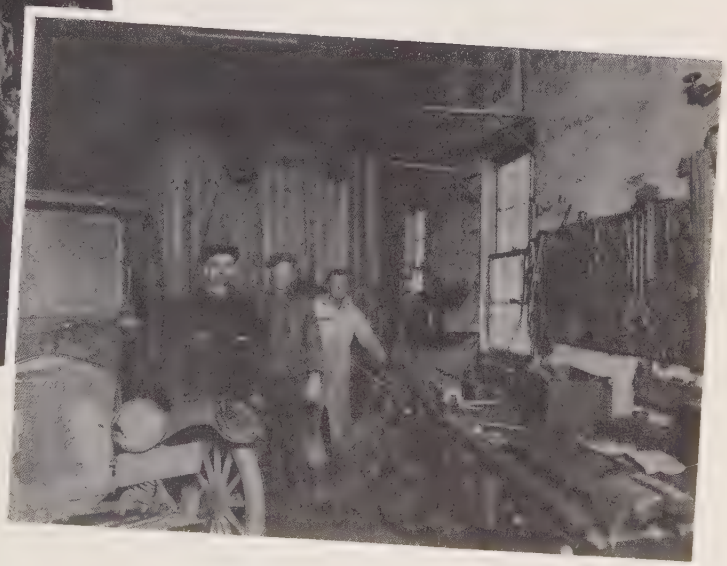
Maynard Girls' Basketball Team—Esther Cornwright, Verna Barager, Martha Rubel, Vegneth Holian, Mabel Cornwright, Clara Eckert, and mascot, Professor Hegstrom's boy.

A Sunday School class and their teacher, Henry Logan. Standing: Clara Huseby, Bennie Olson, Clarence Soine, Sever Soine, Christ Soine, Oliver Soine. Seated: Minnie Huseby, Olina Soine, Henry Logan, Eva Soine, Vegneth Holian, Ce Bella and De Lella Holian and Tyler Soine. Taken about 1907.

Commercial Hotel—later known as the West Hotel. Justice of the Peace, K. H. Holian performing a marriage ceremony for Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Burns outside of the hotel on July 20, 1903.

Fernald Drug Store stood where the Security State Bank now stands.

An early barbershop—Phillip Halling and Carl Anderson.



Bill Cornwright's Butcher Shop taken about 1911 or 1912. Harry Berge, Esther Cornwright, John Leigen and Fred Nelson.

Blacksmith shop in the early days

Market Day in Maynard in May of 1910.

Street scene in Maynard showing the buildings on the right before the big fire of 1925 when all the buildings on the right were wiped out except for the brick building on the corner in the background which today houses the Security State Bank. This picture was taken about 1912.

One of Maynard's earliest homes.—This house was built in 1896 and was originally the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew O. Vold. The Ole Wefsenmoes bought it in 1902 and lived there all of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Nels Hove, daughter and son-in-law live there now and both couples have observed their Golden Weddings there.

Some early section men at work. First one not identified. Others are Pete Wefsenmoe, A. Anderson, Ole Flatberg, John Simonson and Nels Swanson.

Village of Clara City

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

Several years ago our Representative, Mr. George P. Grussing, was searching through the files at the State Historical Society in St. Paul to find what he could about Hawk Creek in preparation for the Hawk Creek Watershed Program. He found reference to Indian occupation of our area which we will pass on to you as he found it.

George P. Grussing

The Sioux Indians from Pipestone and Granite Falls would gather together and follow Hawk Creek north to a place where there was a high bluff on the west shore of the creek. To the west of this bluff was a high hill or knoll with a slough edged with long prairie grass to the west of it. Pitching their wigwams on the west side of this knoll the Indians would camp for a buffalo hunt. Here their temporary village was hidden more or less from the approaching buffalo. Hawk Creek beyond the high bluff had a place where there was a solid gravel bottom. Buffalo were big heavy animals and very cautious when they went to drink for they would easily bog down and get stuck in sloughs or any place without good solid footing for them. They were known to travel miles to reach this place in the creek where they could drink safely. Before they would go to drink however they would gather on this high bluff to look around to see if they were safe from attack from Indians or other foes.

The Indians would stand watch on the hill above their camp looking for the buffalo heads to show up on the bluff. When the buffalo were sited the Indians would take their small ponies and hide in a slough directly west of the part of the creek where the gravel bottom was. There they would wait for the herd to come in and drink. When the buffalo's suspicions had been allayed and they were enjoying the refreshing water the Indians on their ponies would rush at them and shoot them.

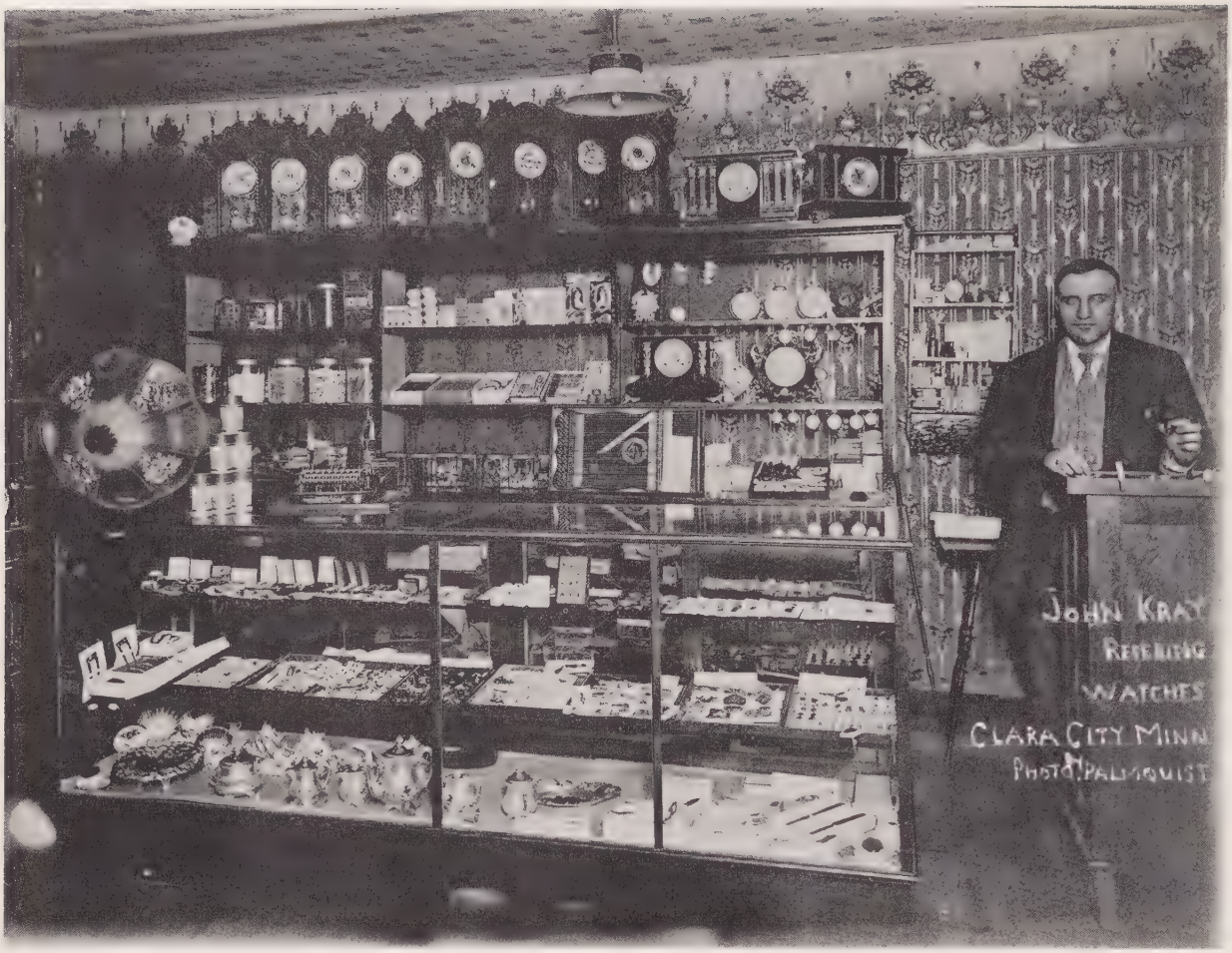
Apparently this had been done for many years but there is no record of when it started. In the middle 1800's a white family moved in and dug a place for a home here on the open prairie. They too were buffalo hunters. This was the Erickson family, the first white family to make their home in Clara City. They were friendly with the Indians and bargained to supply them with guns and ammunition. They gave the buffalo carcasses to the Indians keeping the hides to barter or sell. Later this family became cattle herders.

The high bluff on which the buffalo gathered to survey their chances of a safety is very likely the area where the Gunnar Sand family lives. Their home was built by the Van Horns and is one of the first homes in Clara City. The high hill mentioned is where the Catholic church and the Meyer home are now. Some of the old timers still remember the high hill from which gravel was taken and later was leveled down for building lots. The slough to the west is what is now our football field with the Indian wigwams pitched on the edge on the rise of the hill, probably on the public school property and on south. The slough west of the gravel creek bottom (which became Clara City's swimming hole) became known as Kuiper's slough. It was directly north of where Mrs. Etta Grussing's and Angulus Lepler's homes now are.

In 1887 when the survey for the railroad was completed through Chippewa County the considerable knoll which gives Clara City its pleasing eminence was selected as a townsite for that part of the county and a plat just two miles square was drawn, square with the compass, the railroad cutting the plat in an almost perfect diagonal from northeast to southwest. The Willmar and Sioux Falls Townsite Company of which John M. Spicer was president, controlled the location of new townsites along the railroad. Prins and Koch were desirous of having their townsite approved and gave the Townsite Company one half interest in the entire 313 acres on which the town is located. This interest was later transferred to the Spicer Land Company. The plat was approved and filed for record on July 16, 1888. In compliment to Mrs. Clara Koch, wife of Mr. Theodore F. Koch, the most active promoter of the area, the place was called Clara City.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore F. Koch 1887

The first lot in the new townsite was sold on July 1, 1888, to William Orlebeke for $125. and was paid for in three annual installments. This lot is the one on which the Clara City State Bank is located. On it Mr. Orlebeke built the first building in the town. The lumber had to be hauled from Willmar, a long difficult trip. But Mr. Orlebeke was not one to become discouraged easily. He was a veteran of the Civil War, the only Grand Army man to be buried in our cemetery. Finally the building was ready and Orlebeke's Store was open for business. (See cornerstore with man leaning against it at rt. end of picture inside front cover).



Kray Jewelry Store

Eventually it was moved to the lot just east of the Herald office. Before it was torn down it had served as Orlebeke's store, John Greenfield's Feed Mill, a dwelling, post office, boarding house and as a church.

The second building in town was erected by Jacob Meyering who had been operating a store in Prinsburg. When he sold out he tore down his stable into sections to move to Clara City. There were creeks and ponds to cross between the two places and at times the wagon boxes with their loads of lumber would float off the wagons. The building was reassembled and Mr. Meyering was again in the Grocery business. The grocery store was the main gathering place in those early days. Here news was exchanged and provisions acquired. Saturday night in town became an institution—not to be done away with to this day. The stock was meager, consisting of about $5. worth of coffee, another $5. of tea, $1. worth of sugar, salt, a little spice, a few pair of shoes, boots and overalls and calico.

Thalens and Dowies, operating for the Netherlands Land Co. built the third building in town where Phil Stager's Coast to Coast store now stands. This was sort of a rooming house so that the carpenters, well diggers and others who were working to prepare homes for the new settlers, might have a place to stay, as well as the settlers when they came. Mr. John Swiers lived in it and operated it for the company. In the early 1900's it was moved to its present location where Donner's Service Station is. The Fred Krays lived in it there and their son John who was physically handicapped had a jewelry store in the front part. In 1913 or 14 a fire destroyed the front of the building so the Krays built a home (where Kasjen Tebben now lives) and John worked at his business from the home until his death in 1920. Albert Prekker bought the damaged building, repaired it and lived in it until he bought the Orlebeke home across the street.

Fred Abbes built his home on the corner where Mrs. Jennie Kruger now lives. It was the fourth building in town. Fred Abbes was civic minded and helped in many ways in the new village. He served as President of the City Council in 1892. His children are: Annie, Josie, Willie and Marie. After a time they moved out west. Mrs. Abbes had a brother, Antonius Jungeblut who donated a plot of ground for the first Catholic church. When he died a short time thereafter he was buried on his own property near the church. It was bad weather with a lot of snow on the ground at the time. The years went by and in 1928 when excavating for the present church the men found the grave which was unknown to the younger people about town. So they went in search of old timers who would know something about it. They came to Henry Frikke and asked and he said he had helped lay Mr. Jungblut away there. The body was then transferred to the cemetery, properly identified. The Abbes home was moved in about 1906 and became the home of Chas. Bush. Today it is the home of John Koenen.

The summer of 1891 found the Yock brothers building a store on Main street which opened that fall. Mr. Emil Yock was born Dec. 5, 1869, on a farm in Wisconsin. The family moved to Renville where he spent his childhood. In 1891 he came to

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Yock

Clara City with a brother, Julius, and started Yock's General Store which he managed for many years. His wife was Wilhelmina Buethe who tho born in Beaver Falls, spent her childhood on a farm near Olivia. She too was active in the store for many years. The Yock children are Ervin who died in infancy, William, a dentist at St. James, Douglas, a dentist who heads the Crown and Bridge Dept. of the U. of Minn., Gordon who is President of the Variety Supply, and Mrs. Florence Bonde of Clara City. Mr. and Mrs. William Yock, parents of Emil, Julius, Ida and Tillie moved to Clara City and spent the rest of their lives here. Emil Yock died in 1942 and Mrs. Yock in 1949.

Next to Yock's to the west was Tucker's store where John Kray's Station is now. Mr. J. W. Tucker was the first Recorder (secretary) for Clara City, a position he held for many of the early years. His store was a popular one, just to the left of the door was the candy counter where one could buy a good sized candy banana for a penny. About 1911 the family went to California, where Oliver, Harold and Lucy now live.

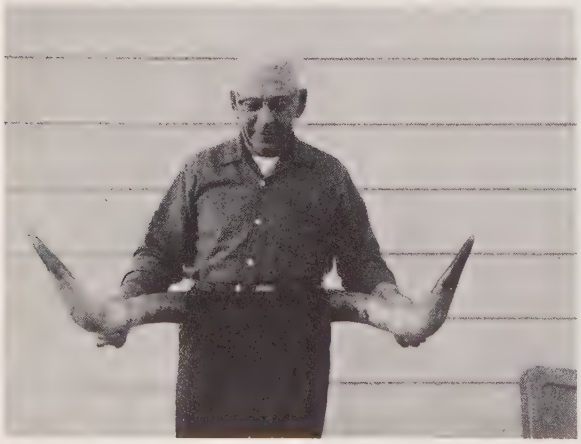
By 1891 eight families had settled "in town" and the village was incorporated on Sept. 28, 1891. 27 men voted at the first election. They were E. H. Erickson, F. C. Bell, D. Ritzema, J. Haima, M. Johnson, J. Kelly, Julius Yock, F. W. Mattson, J. Meyer, H. Sweirs, H. Stubbe, W. Hagen, L. Enkema,W. and John Best, John Orlebeke, J. W. Tucker, F. Benson, J. Meyring, E. Klinghagen, John Sweirs, H. Greve, Eugene Thein, Anno Veenstra, Wm. Yock, K. Lakunan and George Holm. John Orlebeke, D. Ritzema and A. Veenstra were elected trustees, J. W. Tucker, recorder, John Sweirs, treasurer, F. C. Bell and F. W. Mattson, justices of the peace, J. Meyer and E. H. Erickson, constables on the 15th of Sept., 1891. On the 16th John and Wm. O'Connor appeared before the Village Council and applied for a liquor license! It was granted the 22nd. Their other business that day was a motion to draw up a code of ordinances for the village, and to call upon all the citizens for help in making a fire break around the village the following evening. On October 5th Herman Swiers was appointed to act as Village Marshal and Pound Master for $5. per month. The County Attorney Haugeland drew up the customary ordinances and they were accepted, various committees were appointed and arrangements were made to build a village gaol (jail). Bills began to come in at the Oct. 15 meeting. At the end of the minutes Mr. Tucker notes, "Talking Dutch 20 mins., subject unknown—" At a special meeting Oct. 29 an ordinance was passed closing all places of business on Sunday except the postoffice which would be open one hour at noon. Arrangements were made for improving the streets and board side walks and crossings. Home owners were required to lay sidewalks on their property and bills were sent to absentee owners for the walks on their lots. 62 voted in the March 15, 1892 election. At the first meeting thereafter, liquor licenses were granted to J. Yeschick, to P. F. Gelly and O'Connor Brothers. These licenses cost $500. Sometimes they were granted licenses for pool tables also, but no card playing or

Tuckers Store

Columbian Band—standing: S. K. Booth, 2 unidentified, Chris Thom, Swiers, Bill Thissen, unknown, Bill Orlebeke. Seated: John Warrings, Hillern Warrings, Bill Thom, Harley Keely, 2 unidentified, Sico Swiers. Seated on ground: Matt Thom and Dick Gasterland.

gambling was allowed in the saloons. At the April 12th meeting an appropriation of $150 was asked for the Clara City Brass Band. At a later meeting it was agreed to donate $100, if a petition signed by a majority of the freeholders of the village was presented. The matter was dropped at this time but later music was bought for the "Columbian Band".

For a couple years the income from the liquor licenses sufficed but new demands for better streets and bridges across the creek at different places made assessments necessary. Feb. 14, 1893, six kerosene street lamps were bought and erected. Fire protection became a problem about this time. The railroad offered their tank and the village bought 500' of hose, a dozen fire buckets, 2 ladders and a hose cart. Each business place was required to have a barrel of salt water and a pail "in the rear" in case of fire. Manure piles and dead animals were a constant nuisance. The pound master used two stalls in F. C. Bell's barn for stray horses and another place for stray cows. Wild mustard was prolific and the street Dept. was repeatedly ordered to clean up the mustard on the edges of the streets.



Oxen horns from the ox used to level the first streets 1887.

Business places grew up on the street facing the railroad from the north and the elevator and lumber yards were built on the south side of the tracks. The first settler, Erick Erickson, had hoped to homestead the property on which he lived but found it was railroad property so was not available. So he built a home a short distance from their dugout, on the lot where Wm. Fokken now lives. In fact it was this home which the Fokkens bought and tore down to make room for their new home. Two other homes that were built real early and still are in use are those of the Hagemeyers and Kuhlers in the northeast part of town. These homes were built by Mr. Svan Althuis who was a carpenter working for Prins and Koch. He and his family came here in the first passenger coach added to a freight train in August 1889. He built elevators as well as farm buildings and homes. When the rush of building was over in the early 1900's and there was little work for carpenters they moved on to a better locality for work. A daughter, Alice Althuis now lives in Holland, Michigan.

Mr. M. S. Carl came here from Granite Falls to be cashier in the Clara City State Bank. He had been born in St. Johns, Ontario, Canada, where his father was a miller. After his graduation from St. Catherine's Collegiate Institute in Ontario he taught for ten years before coming to Granite Falls

to study law and within a year came to our village. Here he served the Clara City State Bank for 40 years. He was also president of the Clara City Mercantile Co. and had an interest in the Geib Lumber Co. besides other business interests throughout the state. He was one who worked for the building of the new Railroad into town in the 1920's. In 1902 he married Edith M. Bridges of Minneapolis who had come here to teach school. Together they worked to provide modern facilities for the school and to maintain the highest standards of education for the village children. Their children are Grace Rugland, Ruth Birch, Marian Bergstrand, all of Minneapolis, Helen Granum of Spring Valley, Florence Lankey of N. Dakota and Jean Michels who passed away in Oct. 1963 in Calif. Mrs. Edith Carl has made her home in Minneapolis since her husband's death in 1942.

Mr. M. S. Carl

The Fire Department plays a big part in the history of any town. It was a cause of concern from the very first in ours. The earliest minutes of the village made mention of the problem from the very first meeting when they ordered all residents out to help prepare the fire break for the fall when prairie fires were to be feared. With the advent of th railroad and its water tank they felt more secure with a hose cart and hose and buckets. As the village spread out 500 feet of hose was no longer adequate and a horse drawn hand pumped fire engine was bought. It was quickly traded in on a steam engine which proved much more satisfactory. From time to time additions have been made to the fire fighting equipment to keep us abreast of the times and as efficient as possible. Fortunately the fires have not been too many. The Tucker fire in 1910 has been told elsewhere. Another bad one occurred in 1928 when Weers store burned, leveling the space where the Tholen building was subsequently erected. It was in this fire that Tony Risch was burned so badly he succumbed.

Space permits only a few of the stories that could be told. The early hose cart was often pulled by man power when a horse was not readily available. One farmer drove into the village one day to have his team unhitched from his rig and hitched to the fire engine when the manpower involved saw an easier and probably quicker way to the fire! The first officers of the Fire Department were H. Swiers Captain, John Meyers and Chris Thom 1st and 2nd Lieutenants, M. S. Carl Treasurer and J. W. Hucker Clerk on March 12, 1895. The present officers are: George Kray Fire Chief, Gene Thein Jr. Secretary, Glen Berghuis.

In 1894 Anna Mueller married Angelus Heins and they made their home on the farm just north of Clara City. Mrs. Heins had come to the area in 1889 with her folks, the Arnd Muellers. Being the oldest in a family of six girls she had to help with the field work, plowing, shocking and pitching bundles. Her mother died when she was fifteen and she became housekeeper for the family.

Mrs. Heins recalls the huge flocks of yellow-headed blackbirds that darkened the sun as they flew overhead. These blackbirds had the uncanny ability of being able to find corn after it was planted. One year only a few corn plants came up in a field of 25 acres.

There was also an abundance of geese, ducks, and cranes which had to be chased from the fields from time to time lest they eat all the grain.

Mr. and Mrs. Angelus Heins, John, Jessie, Lena Klaye, Emma Wenholz.

She also recalls one prairie fire which started at Willow Lake (near the former Hillern Warrings place). Blown by a strong southwest wind, it presented a fearful sight as the smoke and fire billowed up into the sky. The Muellers, seeing the smoke, moved all their belongings out on to a patch of plowed land near their home. Luckily, the prairie fire stopped at the second furrow which had been plowed around the edge of their farm for just such an emergency.

As one of the first pioneers around Clara City, Angelus Heins broke the prairie with a breaking plow drawn by three horses. Rocks plowed up were hauled to the farmyard where they were used in foundations and cellars of buildings which were to be built later on.

In those days roads and trails did not follow property lines but wandered across the country generally following higher ground. Winter time was the time to haul crops to town, then the horse-drawn sleighs could cross the frozen sloughs which afforded many short cuts.

The wives of early settlers had to be very versatile. They had to have many remedies in mind in case of sickness. They had to know how to cook, can and preserve foods, churn butter, bake bread, and garden.

Before cars came into general use, Mrs. Heins would walk to and from town along a path near Hawk Creek and through a pasture. Often she carried a basket of eggs or some butter (with her own special mark on the top) to trade at the store for groceries, which she again carried home in her basket. She enjoyed this walk because of the wild flowers and other beauties of nature she saw along the way.

In 1937 Mr. and Mrs. Angelus Heins retired from farming and moved into their new home at 322 1st Street N. E. in Clara City. Angelus Heins passed away in 1955 at the age of 87.

In July 1963 the Heins farm was sold to the Clara City Developers Inc. which donated a plot 300'x600' in the southwest corner to the Clara City Community Nursing Home Inc. Additional land will be platted and developed for residences or industry as needed.

Mr. George Schulte was born in St. Paul in 1876 and spent his childhood in Henderson, Minn. As a young man he came to Clara City and worked for the Geib Lumber Co. and the Clara City State Bank for several years. When the Clara City Mercantile Co. was organized in 1902 he was co-owner and manager until the time of his death in 1937. Mrs. Schulte was Mathilda Beuthe who grew up on a farm near Olivia. She came to Clara City in 1898 and worked

Clara City in 1897

in Yock's General Store until her marriage. Her father, William Beuthe made his home in Clara City in his declining years. Mrs. Schulte passed away in 1959. The children are a daughter, Dorothy Schjeldahl, sons Francis who managed the Clara City Mercantile Co. from 1937 until his death in 1959, Col. George who is a dentist with the U. S. Air Force now in Wiesbaden, Germany, and Robert who is district manager for the Hormel Co. in Moorhead.

Mr. and Mrs. George Schulte, Dorothy, Francis, Robert (in front), George Jr.

When the new school was built in 1894 the old building was used for a time by the city to store their fire fighting equipment, and when a medicine show or a traveling group of players came to town the fire wagon would be dragged out and the place swept and used as an auditorium. All was not work, the people had their fun and celebrations too. A Band was organized and played for community functions such as the Fourth of July, 1898.

The parade that morning was a grand success. Headed by the Columbian band it started from the west end of the town in the following order: Band, Old Soldiers (this was a group of the older Germans that had seen military service in the old country, who marched with the colors of Germany and Old Glory flying to the breeze side by side), Uncle Sam, Cuban Guards, Goddess of Liberty and 45 young girls representing each state, President and speakers of the day, Modern Woodman Society on horseback, Clara City Fire Department, Industrial floats, and ending with a Calithumpian brigade.

The procession marched to the Pavilion where the exercises were opened with a prayer by Rev. Potgeter of Bunde.

The day was marred by two accidents. In the afternoon Joe Ulferts who competed in the bicycle race, ran down a little girl, with skin bruises for the little girl.

The second accident happened at the fireworks in the evening. That turned out to be a whiz ding, bangup affair. E. Thein, Henry Straus and Pete Best climbed to the top of the railroad windmill to present a finer display. Sparks from a sky rocket that had just been fired fell into the box and all the fireworks caught fire, and then there was Hail Columbia! Thein was hastily climbing down, when a rocket struck him under the chin, throwing him over backward and he fell thirty feet. (It was a terrible fall but he fully recovered). The others beat a hasty retreat, but got clobbered from the rear. Rockets and other devilish contraptions skidded and hissed about the windmill and the ground in all directions, as well as among the people who thought the fellows were going a little bit too far with this Fourth of July spirit. There was a large amount of the stuff, and except for a few light burns it was indeed a bit of luck that no one else was seriously hurt.

One rocket went through the window of D. Ritzema's store, located where the Clara City State Bank is now located (the first Orlebeke building).

Eugene Thein came here in the late '80's to run the engine for a thresher on the Stock Farm owned by the Netherlands Land Co. During those years he lived with Warrings and Meyerings until his marriage to Katherine Kron in about '89. Their children, Ann Hanka, Kate Harguth, Pete, John, Eugene and George were all born here and all but Ann stayed here when grown. Mr. Thein dug the first city well in 1895. He received 50c a ft. for 30 ft. then bored a 5" hole for 25c a ft. as deep as it was needed. A cistern was made, 12' in diameter and 12' deep for $1. per ft. A windmill 40' high with an 8' wheel was put up for $140. and a force pump installed. A brother of Mr. Thein's came later and also spent his life here, Peter P. Thein.

His children are Leo and Bob of Winona and Trudy and Mary Ann of Minneapolis.

On Oct. 14, 1895, Isaac Orlebeke was made town marshal and engineer. Heretofore the marshal had also been pound master. This job was an unpopular one evidently as there was a fast turnover of office holders. They were finding it hard to get the saloons to close at 11 P. M. and stay closed on Sundays. The restaurants were allowing pool to be played on Sundays and some of the stores would open so that country people could purchase their needs after church services. The city ladders purchased for use of the fire department were in great demand and were often lost and the marshal had to go hunting for them. Now to his duties as marshal was added those of engineer. He was in charge of the new well and its equipment as well as that of the fire department and must keep it in readiness at all times.

Martin Weers came from Germany in 1888 with his Grandparents. 'Twas sort of a custom there for the grandparents to take and rear the first grandchild. They bought 80 acres south of town and the 14 or 15 yr. old lad, Martin, ran the farm and his grandfather took up his trade as a carpenter, being one of the first carpenters hereabouts. One summer he and John Ahlfs built the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches, having them both under construction at the same time. The houses of Jim Larson and Tade Andresen in which Anthony Schorn now lives were made from this Presbyterian church. When they had been here a time, the Grandfather came to the house one morning and said he believed there was a cat in the chicken house. Being able to take only the bare necessities when they came here the settlers prized cats and dogs. So the grandmother quickly warmed a pan of milk to take to the stray cat in hopes it would decide to make this its home. As she soothingly called and coaxed the cat to come and drink the milk she edged closer and closer to where it was hiding. An odor became noticeable, and then stronger. She finally gave up and went back to the house and told the grandfather and Martin that she didn't believe the cat would tame. "It is probably an old tom cat anyway, it is so smelly!"

Weer's Grocery and Veenstra's Harness Shop

Martin Weers went into the grocery business, first in a building where Charlie's Cafe is now, next to the Veenstra Harness Shop which stood where Brix Drug is now, then across the street on the corner where the Tholen building is. The little girls liked to go to his store for just inside the door he had a display of rings and necklaces for a few cents each, cheap enough so parents could rather easily be persuaded to buy. The Weers children are Henry of Minneapolis, Chris, (Fuzzy), father of Loren and Roger, Florence (Mrs. Henry Ruter), Evelyn (Mrs. Willard Schoen), and Alice (Mrs. Volney Johnson).

Cal Watkins, first carrier on Route 3

The first post offices were evidently maintained in the early stores, with Mr. Orlebeke, Mr. Meyering and a Mr. Wells being the earliest postmasters. Mr. C. Berghuis was postmaster for 17 years and published the Clara City Herald for its first 40 years having bought it when it was but a few months old. He built the building where the Herald is now, with the front used as the Postoffice. There were no lock boxes. You rented a box with a number that you could look into. If you had mail you patiently waited for Mr. Burges (he changed the spelling to make it easier) to open a window and you would call for your mail. The earliest mail carriers were: Alfred Anderson (was the first one) Albin Walleen, Bert Schamp and Cal Watkins and Peggy Stutelberg. Jacob Steffens was a substitute for Bert Schamp. They were succeeded by Bill Thissen (Sailor's father), Elmer Foote and Wm. F. Ammerman. During World War I Mrs. Frank Benson was appointed postmistress and the postoffice was moved to a building where Art's Skogmo Store now is. She held office for four years. During this time John Stutelberg succeeded Wm. F. Ammerman in 1919 and Chris Steffens took Bert Schamp's route in 1920. Martin Caspers was the other carrier. When Claus Lepler was appointed postmaster the office was moved to where the Johnson Hatchery building is. From there it was moved to the Tholen Building where the quarters have twice been enlarged so we now have a fine up to date modern Post Office. John Gunter followed Mr. Lepler after 12 years as postmaster, the others being Amie Voight, Arnie Weflen, Margaret Asche and Lowell Anderson. When Martin Caspers retired, the three routes were consolidated in the present two. John Stutleberg served Route 1 continuously until his death in 1957 when Fred Freisleben took over. Chris Steffens has been a carrier on route 2 for 44 years. Bill Thissen was the first carrier to own a car. This was a new "High Wheeler" and it never did make a complete trip around the route. Bill was so disgusted with this machine he sold it to the depot agent at Granite Falls and it was shipped

there by freight! Wm. Ammerman and Peg. Stutelberg tried motorcycles and according to Peg. they had some success with them in dry seasons. John Stutelberg and Chris Steffens tried about everything else that came along, road carts, buggies, sleds, and mail wagons, all horse drawn. Model T's, Model A's, snowmobiles, Chevys, Star and Durant cars. Chris Steffens first car was a Chalmers but he says the Ford Model A was the best for the tough going we had those early days. Gravel roads were unknown, when it rained every mile of the way was mud. There is quite a change!"

On May 28, 1896 a meeting was held in the Clara City Hall, Anton Thissen presiding. The Crate Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Company was formed. The name being agreed upon a policy form was adopted, patterned after an established insurance company policy. A board of directors was elected; Anton Thissen, president; Tantjes Voss, secretary; and H. U. Theesen, Wm. Slazman, D. Davids, E. Klinghagen and W. F. Reiners directors. The president's salary was set at $25 and the first assessment was 1 mill. The company has leveled assessments of from 1 to 3 mills as was needed to settle claims during the years, and at times money was borrowed. The company has had a steady, continued growth and at present has over $10 million insurance in force and assets of over $106,500. Members who have served as directors and officers of the company in addition to the first board are: G. Wobschall, D. W. Ammerman, John Scheltens, Henry Fokken, H. W. Berghuis, L. Beuke, Jacob Steffens, John A. Anderson, George Kruger, John Barney Sr., and George A. Bohlsen. Many others whose names are not mentioned, especially the policy holders, deserve credit for the present excellent condition of the company. The present board are John J. Steffens president, Wm. A. Korn vice president, Wm. August Anderson secretary, Koene A. Brouwer, H. D. Grussing, Fred M. Aeikens and Joseph Schuman.

Mr. C. Berghuis

Dr. Davis, the first doctor in the village served as president of the council in 1897. His successor was Mr. S. K. Booth who was also director of the Columbia Brass Band. Since '93 street lights had been purchased and as new streets were prepared new lights were bought. They were kerosene lights and the village marshal lit them and kept them "in trim." Kerosene was purchased by the city for 11c a gal. As new streets were made ready, trees were planted along the boulevards and a fine was imposed on anyone damaging them. Trees were at a premium in those days. In 1892 the Theilings moved in with some young cottonwood trees. People from all around (they lived on the Heiko Goldenstein farm) came to buy trees. Three of these trees are still with us in town today. There is one at the corner of John Thein's lot, one in Jack Stager's yard and one in Jetta Behrend's lot.

In 1899 John Balthasser Stager sold his farm in Crate and moved to Clara City and worked for Adolpf Schuft in the meat market. Mr. Stager had been born in 1866 in Metloidi, Switzerland. His mother died when he was three. At the age of seventeen he came to America, and in the summer of 1883 he landed in Chippewa County. He made most of his living cutting and baling hay, working on various farms as this was all a vast prairie. When he became of age he homesteaded in section 2 of Crate township, part of the farm now occupied by Ervin Klassen. He traded this 80 acres for a white horse and a watch. The horse died—so Jack, who now owns the watch which is a key winding one and still works, feels he has a valuable watch at the present value of 80 acres. In 1890 he married Christina Fritz. To this union were born eleven children; one died in infancy, the rest are all living. After six years of learning the business Mr. Stager bought the meat market and ran it for five years. In 1910 he sold out and moved to Annandale where he operated a meat market for two years. But his heart was in Clara City so he returned to work in

Mr. J. B. Stager Sr., Marcella Swoboda, Mrs. Stager, Katherine Ingals. Adella Wigdahl, Helen Fohey, Henry, Matt, Jack, Philip, Margaret Wall and Francis.

the market here again. In 1914 he started to work for the village as policeman, street superintendent, water superintendent, and assessor, at which job he worked until his death March 10, 1936. He'd also served as clerk of Crate and Clara City. His sons, J. B. Jr. (Jack), Henry and Philip have carried on in their father's tradition in their home town and have helped develop it to what it is today.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Condon

Condon Stock Yards

About 1900 Mike Condon came to Clara City. He had come to the U.S.A. from Ireland with two older brothers when he was nine years of age. He lived with his brother, Tom, in Louriston until he was old enough to farm. He married Louise C. Fritz in 1889 and farmed and worked up a business buying and selling livestock. They made their home west of the village where Ted Meinerts now lives and when their house burned down moved in to town. Mrs. Condon died in 1913 and he in 1922. Their children are Rose (Mrs. Lue Tomes), Kate (Mrs. L. J. Tammen), Emmet, Louis, Walter and Marie (Mrs. J. Emmen) of Clara City, Frank of Montevideo (deceased), William J. of Raymond, Lucille of Montclair, Calif., John of South Gate, Calif., and Lincoln A. of Calmar, Iowa.

The Otto Peters, who had farmed north of town where Art Harms now lives, moved into the house in town where Claus Meints now lives. After some years he and Mike Fritz bought a business in Howard Lake and moved there where their younger daughters, Margaret and Marie lived also. Rudolph lived in Minneapolis and Mrs. Gust Erickson settled in Kerkhoven. The Fritz family returned to Clara City to make their home.

As the little village entered the twentieth century a diphtheria epidemic struck the community. The first case was a boy, Ike Boersma, who had a

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Peters, Mrs. Gust Erickson and Mrs. Mike Fritz.

slight attack and fully recovered as did one of the Erickson boys. The next was the only son of Sander Luurs. The doctor called Mrs. John B. Stager to help him as she had been assisting with the other sick children. He reached a critical stage and the doctor tried to save his life by opening his windpipe so he could breathe but the operation was not a success and he bled to death. Mrs. Stager came running home hysterically crying, "They butchered him, they butchered him!" The next ones to have the disease were the Butler boys. They had it so bad they fell off the bed and died. Anthony Fritz of Crate died and William Gusregen took sick in the morning and died that same evening. The place now owned by Fred Barney was used as a place to take the sick and was called a "pest house." When people died they had private funerals at night, thus trying not to spread the disease.

In 1905 the city with the township of Rheiderland put up a brick building to house the fire department and to provide an auditorium and meeting place for the town council. To this day both the village and township elections and meetings are held here. It has been used as a school for a time, about 1950 to 1955 or so. Now a movement is underway which will no doubt eventually lead to a new city building since this one has definitely been outgrown.

Enkema Building We lived on the TAMMEN STOCK FARM (Pa PEARL WALL

For a few years after the turn of the century business and building boomed. In 1903 the Mercantile building was put up, and the next year the Enkemas put up the fine block long, brick building, about half of which is still in use as library, Dr. E. C. Linden's office, and Dr. E. A. McLaughlin's office.

Winter street scene

Along about this time (early 1900's) the DeGrote family came to town. Mr. Peter DeGrote brought his family from Germany in 1881 and after some years in Iowa they moved to Minnesota, about 1893. They went to a farm three miles north of town. William hired out to a neighbor, Mr. Tammen who was running what had formerly been known as the Stock Farm. Here he met, courted and in 1904 married his boss's daughter, Simka Tammen. For a while he ran a dray line until he went into the hardware business with his brother Simon, in about 1909. Simon sold his share in the business to William and went to farming near Clara City. His children are Hilda Freese of Montevideo, Lena Kluver of Alexandria, Pete of Willmar, John of Minneapolis, Harm, Bill, Fred, and Grace Haas of Clara City. William in addition to the hardware and implement business started that of funeral directing in 1915. In 1930 his son Simon took over this phase of the business, and upon his father's death in 1935 the hardware business, while another son, Pete, took over the implement business then. He built the garage on East Main Street in 1956. The DeGrote business started where the State Bank stands. In 1912 they built the south part of the DeGrote Building and in 1926 added the other part. They also put up the building where Charlie's Cafe and the Bakery and the County Maintenance Dept. now are, in 1925. This was used as a garage at that time. Mrs. Wm. DeGrote died in 1961. Their other children are Anne DaWald of Odessa, Thaline Ecklund of Tahoe Valley, Calif., Mildred Dahlseng of Starbuck and William of Alexandria. Peter DeGrote had three more children, Lamka Miller, Fred and John. Lamka's children are Pete and William of Willmar, Augusta Niemeyer of Gluek, George of Alaska, Annie deceased, Marie Peterson of Montevideo, and Lena Buhr, Emma Gerdes and John of Clara City. Fred DeGrote's children are Pete of Excelsior and Bau of California. John DeGrote's family include Pete of Montevideo, John of Gluek and Viola Wolff of Clara City.

A local group, all dressed up for home talent play: Uncle Tom's Cabin 1906-07. In front: Jack Aahlfs, Albert Tholen. First row: Teacher, Veenker, Charlie Peters, Heilman boy, George Freisleben, Teacher. Second row: Ida Glazer, Marie Keenan, Tillie Vos, Mary Geib, Olga Erickson, Teacher. Third row: Teacher, Supt. Zeigler, George Geib, Alma Hafermann, Jack Stager, Peter J. Thein.

In 1908 Mr. G. A. Leipold came to town to take over the Clara City Hotel, which his father-in-law Mr. Louis Theiling had been operating. His father, John Andreas Leipold had homesteaded a mile southeast of Clara City in 1882. He may have been one of the homesteaders who felt this area was not intended for cultivation and so told the Prins and Koch representatives when they were arranging their purchase. At any rate he moved to Itasca County and founded the village of Leipold where he served as postmaster for many years. After living in the Clara City Hotel for two years the Leipolds bought the Commercial Hotel where they lived until 1920. Mr. Leipold was an active citizen, serving on the Village Council, Board of Education and as County Commissioner before moving to Nickerson in 1920. A son, Dr. L. E. Leipold, has just retired from a 43 year teaching career which started in Dist. 3 in Crate Township.

The really disasterous fire everyone feared struck the town in June 1910. For as long as the village had been organized they had worked to improve their fire protection. Mr. Tucker had leased his store to a young man who had put in pool tables and was just starting out. The Tuckers had moved their merchandise to the Enkema building. Some one had an accident with gasoline and the resulting explosion and fire completely burned the Tucker building, Yock brothers store next door, badly damaged the two saloons to the east and the back end of the Meyring building. The Stager barn and chicken coop across the street north were burned. Some of the merchandise from Yock's store was saved, a brigade of young boys carried it across the street to the depot.

Jack Stager and Sander Luurs were on ladders to the top of the old Yock Store building when Sander slipped from the ladder and fell. Jack, alongside, dropped the hose, and grabbed Mr. Luurs by the legs. Jack was on the ladder leaning against a steel rod that held up the front porch and thus he was able to hang on and to pull Luurs up to a point where he could grab support, and he was pulled to safety. It would have been a drop of about 30 feet. Luurs reminded Jack of the incident many times in later years.

Another incident occurred when Jack Stager and Matt Fritz were at the hose and the front windows were loaded with fireworks, and when the fire touched off the fireworks it blew out the windows. Jack and Matt were in the porch and were covered with glass and fire. Chris Thom, then Fire Chief, covered Jack and Matt with rain coats from the store and three coats were burned off their backs.

Tucker's Fire

When the Stager Meat Market started to burn Jack's mother was at the pump pumping water into wash boilers while Jack carried the boilers up the steps and the ladder to the roof while his father sprayed the building. With their efforts the building was saved, but Jack's father received severe burns and was on crutches for several weeks. Margaret Stager, then a young girl, thinking the whole building was going to burn took the money from the cash register and took it to her grandparents, the Fritz's, and in her excitement she forgot where she put the money, and it was several weeks later that it was found under the bed upstairs in the Fritz house.(Now owned by Lammert Knoop.)

Steffens Store 1912—Conrad Klinghagen, Anne Steffens, Lena Tholen, Mrs. and Mr. John Steffens.

Emil Yock set to work and built a new brick building after the fire and again stocked it with general merchandise. Soon after it was ready he sold it to Jacob Steffens. Mr. Conrad Klinghagen joined him as a partner and thus the store was continued until 1932 when Mr. Klinghagen sold his share to Mr. Steffens. Following Mr. Steffens' death in 1938 Chris and Marie Steffens managed until 1946 when they sold it to Jack Rudd. Clarence Warrings bought it in 1950 and became associated with the Gamble Stores. In 1956 it was purchased by Fuzz Oveson—still doing business in the 1910 building.

Those who can remember "way back when" tell us the first barber in town was a colored man by the name of Johnson. He had a small building next to what became known as Theiling's Hotel and there he lived with his wife and five children and plied his trade. In 1905 Dan Jaenisch started a barber shop and bowling alley west of the Commercial Hotel and for 27 years he was a barber. Haircuts were 25c then and a shave 10c. In 1911 he married Ethel Veenker who came to visit a cousin and two years later they opened their home to roomers, charging 25c a night. Many a stranger has been warmly received and many have stayed on as roomers there. After Dan sold his barber shop he sold Dr. Wards remedies for a time and Fuller brushes but in 1929 he started in the oil business. In 1937 George Kray became a partner, buying Dan out in 1941. During the war Dan was kept busy at the station so his wife took over his civic duty of selling war bonds and received a citation for her efforts. Since his retirement Dan has accepted an appointment by the State Employment Agency and as a man about town can give help or information about most anything. He says, "I can remember when there were no churches in Clara City so my mother took us west of Raymond on Sundays to a small country church. (Dan came here with his folks in 1886 when 3 years of age. They lived on a farm north of town.) There were no telephones, no electric lights, just those flickering kerosene lamps. Many changes have been made in these years, I have seen Clara City grow and can say it is a good town to live in."

Sander Luurs was the first blacksmith in town and served for a time as town marshal when the town was very young. One of the first years he asked permission to hard surface an area in front of his business place. Joest Knipp, who with his wife and two sons had come from Holland took over the shop when Mr. Luurs moved to Raymond. The children nowadays would like to see him shoe a horse or work at the forge. Mrs. Knipp still lives in Clara City. The children are Pete, Henry, Wilhelmina and Emil.

The Joe Ertl family moved into town from Crate Township in 1910. Two of their children still live here, John who operates a shoe shop here and Lydia, Mrs. Claus Lepler. The others were Louise, Ida, Louis, Freda, Laura and Irene. The family had lived on the Wm. Luck farm in 1896 and on the John Zeller and Dutch Rothers farm before moving into town, where he ran a saloon where Larson's store is now. When prohibition put him out of business the girls had an ice cream parlor, and one ran a millinery store where Dick Wearda's office is. When Joe Ertl retired he lived where Dick Wearda now lives. The winter of 1903 Joe Ertl and Krene Janssen went to Aitkin County where they had bought some land with the intention of moving up there. With them were Jake and Ben Janssen to help cut wood which would be floated

Knipp Blacksmith Shop

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ertl

down the Mississippi to a lumber mill. While there they had to hunt for their food. Ben saw something in a log and shot. It proved to be a bear. A cub showed up and he shot that too. When the men found what the boy had done they were thankful the animal had been killed for they can be vicious. When they pulled it from the log there were two more cubs which they also killed. The bear skin was sold up there for $25. The boys brought the cub skins back to Clara City and sold them to Emil Yock for $3.75 apiece.

William Donner married Alice Anderson May 26, 1909. He had had a studio in town since about 1903 and our past is rich indeed with the pictures he took. Many of those included in this book are his work. Sometime later he added a jewelry store to his business which his son William took over at the death of his father in 1933, and still maintains. Another son, Clarence, has a jewelry store in Gaylord. The daughters in the family are Mabel Wachsman, Edith Teidens, Hulda Schroeder and Alice Schumacher.

Mr. and Mrs. William Donner Sr. and Alice seated. Mabel, Hulda, Bill, Clarence and Edith.

25th Anniversary Parade, Dick Ammerman's mules.

25th Anniversary Parade

The day came, August 7, 1913 when Clara City celebrated its first twenty-five years. We quote from the "Clara City Herald."

"The booming of heavy artillery at sunrise will awaken you to the fact that the day has arrived.

The early days will be vividly recalled by a grand historical parade at 10 o'clock consisting of vehicles and conveyances used in the transportation of the early settlers to their future home.

An address of welcome by the Rev. Schumacher and a brief historical address by the Rev. Bauer will be given at the band stand immediately after the parade.

Rev. Fr. Schumacher

At 3:00 there will be a baseball game between Clara City and Willmar for a purse of $50.00.

The Clara City Band will play "Der Wacht am Rhine" and other popular airs.

A dance in the evening at the hall with music by the celebrated Clara City four piece orchestra, will be one of the big events.

An excellent display of fireworks at 9:00 p.m. will closethe day outside of some individual celebrating.

Committees on Historical parade: L. Beuke, H. U. Thissen, Fred Freese.

Commercial Club Committee: E. Klinghagen, Ben Beekman, P. C. Davison, A. Veenstra, Joe Ertl.

Rev. Bauer gives a graphic picture of the town at that time so again we quote:

Clara City, 25 years old

CLARA CITY AT PRESENT

The present outlook is good. We have one of the finest prairie towns to be found. The inhabitants number between six and seven hundred souls. We have today 31 business firms in our town, which are doing a rushing business.

I would like to introduce you to our business men: Starting on the opposite side of the street we have Mr. Mike Condon. He is the best man in town at making bargains. He is always willing to do something for you, or do you for something. On the whole he treats others better than himself. Mr. Schlagel is practically a new man in our midst but he fixes a lot of old automobiles, and sells new ones when the old ones are worn out.

Mr. Jaenisch runs the barber shop. A visit to him is most necessary before going to important functions and holiday celebrations.

William Donner is a man of fine arts, keeps the rogues gallery of Clara City, and can make a picture of a young lady in ten minutes who had to have 16 years to grow. Between times he repairs sick watches and clocks.

A Leipold was the first man who met me at the depot 3 years ago, and took me around to his hotel and gave me a warm bed and a good square meal. He is still at the same business in new quarters and now manages the Commercial Hotel.

Steffens & Klinghagen's is the place where you get all kinds of good things for the table. The old settlers will find an old friend in Mr. Steffens, and the younger generation will be able to strike good bargains with Conrad, who has a smile that never wears off.

Mr. Henry Mamman is taking good care of the stomachs and keeps them well filled with good things, provided you have the price. He runs the Rail Road Restaurant.

Next comes the store of Mr. Jacob Meyering. He is keeping the same old stand, that he had 25 years ago. He can assist you in the grocery line and will thank you for a share of your patronage.

The Clara City Mercantile Co. can supply anything in the line of nails, automobiles and hardware. Anything you do not see in their store, you can want for, but if you place your order they can get it on short notice by parcel post.

M. S. Call and E. S. Bursack run the Clara City State Bank. They have never had a run on the bank and are doing a flourishing business. They are working for elbow room and have forced the DeGrote Brothers up against the side of their old carriage house around the corner.

The DeGrote Boys you will find to be fine lads. They sell the finest automobiles in town, called the Overland car. Willie DeGrote says it will never land over on top of you if you steer it straight.

The farmers store is the place to get all kinds of groceries and drug goods.

Emil Yock just came back from Shakopee. He runs a first class general store. Carries a full line of coffees, tea and spices, and is more spicy himself than he was before he went to Shakopee.

Joest Knipp the faithful son of Vulcan runs the blacksmith shop. He is usually black on the outside but white within. He fixes anything broken except broken heads. Dr. Davison attends to those. If you don't believe it ask Joe Ertl.

D. Grashuis and Abe Orlebeke come next. Mr. Grashuis once ran the stock farm and taught the settlers how to make money. Later he went into the banking business, to teach them how to keep it. Mr. Orlebeke is learning the tricks of the trade, and will be one of the shining lights at our fiftieth anniversary. He looks strong enough to outlive us all.

Ben Doehling does painting and decorating. He sells automatic wall paper that hangs on of its own accord if pasted on well.

Mr. C. Burges runs the Post Office and for pastime he writes the Clara City Herald. He makes it his business to make known the will of the people. Belated rubbish heaps and ash piles get sharp jabs from his pen, when cleaning times comes in spring.

John Greenfield lives partly in town and partly in the green fields. Runs a farm and he sometimes plays the dusty miller.

"Who works in the mill;
He works all day with a free good will;
One hand in the hopper, the other in the sack,
The feeds goes out, and the cash comes back."

Toenjes Janssen painted the 80 company houses about 25 years ago. He still plies the brush and

supplies the public with food at the North Side Restaurant.

Mr. Condon we have heard from. Still we must not forget, that when meat got high, he bought the whole butcher shop, and now puts his own price on the meat. He runs the finest butcher shop in town.

Martin Weers is always busy and cheery and can meet all demands in the grocery line.

A Veenstra runs the finest leather shop in town. He can fit you out with shoes for the family, harness for the horse, mule, or goat, and will sell you a pair of leather suspenders or a leather collar, which will last till Clara City's fiftieth anniversary.

We will step over and see Mr. Albert Prekker. He sells all kinds of fixtures for sick bicycles, puts autos in order, and keeps the phone line in order so that rubbering on the 'phone is an actual pleasure.

Mr. J. T. Brooks is the heavy weight blacksmith who runs the trip hammer, and has Art Anderson to learn the tricks of the trade. He had a red haired boy in his employ a year ago, who looked so wise that a man took him for the doctor, and asked him how to cure his wife.

Fred DeGrote quit the ice business and took up the pool room. He seems to be having more time to think these hot summer days. Hoping he will think up some great and good scheme, we pass on to;

Mr. Julius Yock who runs the Yock Mercantile Store. He did one good thing, in repairing that old building so that it will stand another twenty-five years. The town ought to patronize him for this reason alone.

John Emmens runs the Clara City Lumber Company. He is manager, bookkeeper, and laboring man. He saws wood all the time and has nothing to say about other people's business. He can supply lumber to build 6 more towns, and if he has not enough we can surely get it at the Liberty Lumber Company, run by Sico Swiers. Mr. Swiers will treat you right, but you have to give him a chance.

Mr. Benson hires out teams to all good horsemen. He has not caught the automobile fever yet, but he helps a lot of the autoists out of the mud.

1914 flood, Prins' boat, and boathouse afloat!

When you get into trouble go to him, and he will arrange prices to suit.

Mr. Eugene Thein is a jack of all trades. He fixes, pumps, drills wells, does plumbing work and moves buildings. Anything that he cannot fix you may as well thrown out on the junk heap. If you cannot carry it, hire Mr. Peter Thein who runs the city dray line; he will cart it away.

You see we have a fine set of business men, all working on the principle of live and let live. During the last year they even got the idea that it is a good thing for business men to show each other courtesy, and have organized a Business Men's Club. This festal day is one of the first fruits of this club and we hope there will be many more.

1914 among other things brought a flood to Clara City. Mr. Fokko Schuman who lived where Meint Freiborg lives decided to test his prowess as a swimmer in the swirling waters of the creek. He swam across once and as he set out again Emil Yock tried to dissuade him but to no avail. The second time proved too much and he was swept down stream. A couple of days later George Gerdes discovered his body hanging in a fence beyond the bridge on the Montevideo road. He had been a carpenter, working with Henry Schwitters.

The DeGrote Brothers made a celebration of their delivery of manure spreaders. Enkemas at one time had such a doings when they delivered McCormick. During the harvest season Enkema's

DeGrote Spreader Delivery

store was open 24 hours a day so repairs could be procured. Not only that, they had an expert repair man with a wagon load of parts that traveled through the country as the harvest season was on. He would come upon the farmer in the field and ask if his binder was working properly and follow it a bit to observe it. If it needed adjusting or parts he fixed it. Then he asked where the next neighbor was who had a McCormick binder and away he went across the field to his place.

War broke out in Europe and hearts here were torn between loyalty to their new country and thoughts of dear ones still in the old country. Great was the rejoicing when the ordeal was over.

RED CROSS

So far as we can be sure it was on June 10, 1917 that the people of the Clara City area met and came to realize their responsibility and their opportunity to help their country in her time of need. The Red Cross organization followed with Mr. C. Berghuis, president; Mrs. George Zimmer vice-president; Mrs. M. S. Carl, secretary and Mrs. G. A. Leipold, treasurer. After a "Tag Day" there was a membership of 118 and a fund of $201.50. The Catholic and Lutheran churches donated $25 each and yarn was bought to begin knitting. Another group prepared Christmas packages for the boys overseas—20 of them. A Benefit at the theatre with a candy sale, supper to the guests at the Fireman's Ball and another membership drive brought in more funds, and 117 more members.

In January 1918 a hospital garment project was started and another where layettes were made for French orphans. A benefit movie followed by a dance and supper, a Non-Partisan League donation and new memberships added to the funds available. In May the School Board offered the use of its Domestic Science facilities and an extra room for surgical dressing work and a Mrs. William Madden from Montevideo instructed 12 ladies in this work. Mrs. Wm. DeGrote was chosen instructor and taught 10 more and supervised the work as long as it was needed. Since all materials had to be purchased there was a constant need for funds. The Ladies Aids of the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches donated, as did the Lutheran Sunday School, a bedspread, donated, sold for $50, benefits of various kinds were held, home talent plays, dances, suppers, many things to get the money needed.

Even the school children helped in many ways. "With the Colors" reports "that every family in Clara City was represented in the Red Cross organization."

With the advent of World War II the need for surgical dressings arose again, and again the Clara City women responded, making 28,090 under the landership of Mrs. Henry Penning and Mrs. R. A. Merrill.

When the Red Cross started recreational work at the St. Cloud Veteran's Hospital Clara City was active and is credited with giving the best party that the County ever had there. The blood program came to Clara City in 1950. Mrs. Emil Swanson has been in charge since then with the able assistance of Mrs. August Lepler since 1953. In the eleven years of our blood program 170 local persons have received 552 pints of blood which if bought would be worth $16,560. This does not include those who have received blood outside the county, and since many of our people go to the Willmar Hospital these figures may well be doubled or more. In the 20 visits the Bloodmobile has made to Clara City they have collected from 66 to 200 pints a trip for a total of 2,514 pints. 671 local people have worked 6,519 hours assisting with the collection.

The Galloneers Club includes the following who have given a gallon or more, up to almost two gallons: Lawrence Fried, Wm. Lyman, Emil Swanson, John A. Abbas, Carl M. Heins, Mrs. Arnie Henslin, Mary Jeanisch, Henry H. Koenen, Melvin J. Koenen, Lambert J. Steffens, Fred Asche, Arnold Brouwer, John H. Emmens, Robert E. Gerdes, Jack Granger, Henry Knapper, Kenneth F. Koenen, John Ridler Jr., Gordon Yock, Elbertus Aalfs, Rosemary Altenhofen, Peter Asche, Harry Brouwer, Carl Brunkow, Leo Goldenstein, Ivan C. Meints, Bert Prekker, John Ridler Sr., Rance Slater, Mrs. Elmer Stewart, Clarence Wolff, Cassie C. Buss, Dalen J. Caspers, Marvin D. Deikens, Mrs. John Duitsman, Mrs. Herman Enzenaur, Elmer J. Gerdes, Lawrence Grussing, Lawrence Harms, Mrs. John Heins, Stanley Koenen, Helmer Niewbeerta, Clara Ann Prekker, Joseph J. Schuman, Russell Taatjes, Remmer Tebben, Kate Ammerman, Andres A. Andresen, Louis Condon, Bernard Forcier, Mrs. Robert E. Gerdes, Robert L. Jensen, Benny Groen, Jennie Grussing, Earl H. Kleene, Kenneth I. Koenen, Mrs. Howard Otto, Harlan Pieper, Mrs. Leslie Prekker, Sophie Suter, Mrs. Fenno VanHove, Ralph Cummens, Mrs. Walter Deiken, Leonard W. Fokken, Popkeejis Freese, Gust H. Freid, Lawrence Freisleben, Marvin Fuhrmeister, John Heins, Mrs. Carl Jaenisch, Mrs. Mabel Kluver, Wm. A. Kluver, Ted M. Lanning, Mildred Meyer, Rev. Arthur T. Nickel, Hilda Niewbeerta, Olger C. Oveson, Herbert Peiper, Wendell Peiper, George Tammen, Louis W. Tammen, Mrs. Mary Tammen, Mrs. Matt Teidens, Joseph W. Donner, Harvey Goldstenstein, Maurice Ruppert, Alfred Peterson Jr. and Sr., Donald Peterson, Paul Thissen, Clarence Volz.

Those who have given two gallons or more are Gustav Hoppe (35 pints), Harold Buhr, Virgil Henning, Mrs. John Kray, Herbert Lang, Dean Shaw, Mrs. Dick Wearda, Lowell Dannen, Henry J. Frikke, Mrs. Fokko Hilbrands, Derald Schneider, Jake Freese, Conrad C. Tebben, Mrs. Carl Hagemeyer, Leroy Stager, Harold S. Tebben, Arnold Weflen.

If the Red Cross did nothing more, this blood program would amply repay us for our efforts on its behalf.

1950 brought an opportunity to take the First Aid Course again. Mrs. Lelah J. Starbeck of Montevideo taught eleven women, eight of whom went on to take the advanced course. A First Aid Instructors course is being offered now to those having a valid First Aid card.

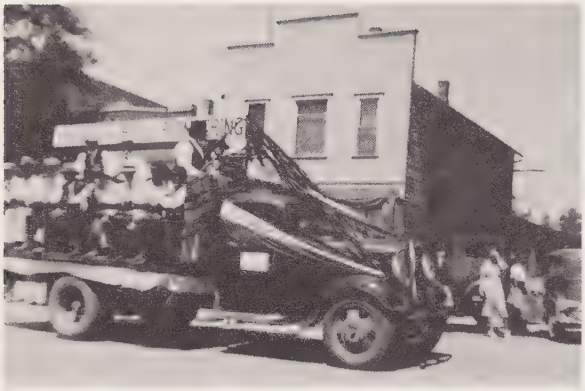
In 1951 when Montevideo opened their new swimming pool Clara City arranged to participate in the Red Cross Swimming program that was offered. 124 children were enrolled that first year with 28 completing their requirements in beginning swimming and 10 in the Intermediate division. In 1963 344 were enrolled and 81 received certificates. Six classes are now being offered: Beginners, Advanced Beginners. Intermediate, Swimmers, Junior and Senior Life Savings. Clara City has 9 Senior Life Savers and 18 Junior Life Savers. A total of 2,581 have received instruction in the 12 years and not one has become a drowning fatality. It would be interesting to know how many lives they have saved besides their own! This also is a truly worthwhile and successful project in our area.

Mr. Henry J. Frikke is a member of the County Board of Directors at present.

The years sped by and soon Clara City's 50th anniversary loomed ahead, 1937. A list of all those over 70 years of age in the community was compiled and printed, the idea being to give them due honor as pioneers of the community.

A special note to the old settlers was printed:

"Come to Clara City on Monday, July 5th as the honored guests of the town. You and your family and friends are more then welcome. If you have been here fifty years, forty years, thirty years or



Old Timers in 50th Parade

William Crooks Engine

less, join in with this gathering of friends and neighbors, for the day is yours. The program arranged is not such an elaborate one, but it is sincere in its purpose, and it is in the spirit of giving due homage that your presence is desired."

"Clara City is preparing to play host to the old pioneers of this section at a one-day celebration, Monday, July 5th.

The old pioneers, their families and friends, are invited to attend this day of observance, the slogan of which will be, "Honor The Pioneer."

The program will start with a band concert by the Clara City Band at 10 o'clock in the morning. After this, one of the expected big features will take place when the "Old Settler's Parade" will move down the streets from the starting place at the public school grounds.

A noon intermission will follow at which time the public may treat themselves to the Free Weiners and Buns which will be handed out in the park across from the Citizens State Bank.

A large tent top, but with no sides, will be put up in the park where tables and chairs will be placed for the convenience of the old people and their friends. This tent will serve as headquarters for the old settlers. At this place also, the address by Rev. M. Weeldreyer will take place.

Shortly after three o'clock the ball game will start, and immediately after the game a series of races and contests, with prizes for the winners, will be started by Al Weflen, announcer. Some of the old fun-tested contests will be used again. A new device to put on a water fight has been constructed that promises considerable excitement.

An evening band concert, and movies, old and new time dances in the Tholen and City Hall, and a fine display of fireworks will complete the festival.

A copy of that list of 70 year or older residents in 1937 found its way to Germany, and was inserted in a family Bible.

A month or so ago 1963 a letter arrived from Emden, Germany, from an Arend Bauman, and with the letter was this clipping which he had found in the Bible. He thought it would be interesting to send to the Clara City Herald, Clara City, Minn.

"The days of our years are three-score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be four-score years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Ps. 90:20. Before those who are over seventy years of age "fly away", we desire to give them some public recognition and honour them, even as it behooves us to do. "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man." (Lev. 19:32). Let us behold them in their beauty even as God says: "The beauty of old men is their gray head," (Prov. 20:29) and "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." (Prov. 16:31).

We shall place before you now the names, age and birthplace of all over seventy years of age.

Geerd Dannen (73) Tichelwarf, Germany.
Mrs. H. J. Goldenstein, nee Hiska Leerhoff (90) Victorbur, Germany.
Eibe Tholen (78) Riepe, Germany.
Kasjen Tebben (77) Boen, Germany.
Mrs. Kasjen Tebben, nee Siemtje Kuhlers (77) Tichelwarf, Germany.
Joest Asche (80) Ditzum, Germany.
Mrs. Joest Asche, nee Jantje Schoorman (79) Pogum, Germany.
Aaldrek Schoorman (88) Poglum, Germany.
Hinderk Van Horn (81) Kirchgorbum, Germany.
Mrs. Hinderk Van Horn, nee Hilke Kueper (81) Hatzum, Germany.
Freerk W. Ammermann (70) German Valley, Illinois, U.S.A.
M. S. Carl (72) Effingham, Ontario, Canada.
Heye Juergena (77) Holtland (Siebestock), Germany.
Hilko Jacobs (70) Pilsum, Germany.
John Dohling (90) Pogum, Germany.
Gerhard Swyter (76) Uplevard, Germany.
Mrs. Etteus Haats, nee Taalke Bueltena (91) Wymeer, Germany.
Wert Willms (82) Upende, Germany.
Mrs. W. Willms, nee Margareta Peters (79) Upende, Germany.
Jacob Steffens (75) Sanborstel, Germany.
Mrs. J. Steffens, nee Margareta Martens (80) Stetdorf, Germany.
Uke Heikes (73) Westermarsch, Germany.
Mrs. U. Heikes, nee Gertje Schwitters (72) Osteel, Germany.
August Niemeyer (74) Fallbrock, Germany.
Seben Klinghagen (73) Tichelwarf, Germany.
Hinderk Frikke (74) Bunde, Germany.
Mrs. G. Hofstede (84) Lappersum, Netherlands.
George Westendorf (72) Uithuvzermeeden, Netherlands.
Mrs. George Westendorf, nee Henderika Jansen (72) Groningen, Netherlands.
Reinhold Korn (78) Beljard, Hinter Pommern, Germany.
Mrs. H. U. Theessen (93) Westerboer, Germany.
Harm Westendorp (70) Uithuizermeeden,r Goningen, Netherlands.
Mr. George Van Hove (78) Voquard, Germany.
Berend U. Brummer (87) Wiebelsummerhammrich, Germany.
Enno Christians (72) Stapelmoorerheide, Germany.
John Fischer (81) Lintelmarsch, Germany.
Fred Becker (83) Uttum, Germany.
John Th. Peters (70) Pilsum, Germany.
Reinder Stegeman (72) Hinte, Germany.
G. Beekman (71) Pogum, Germany.
Berend Reents (75) Hinte, Germany.

Mrs. Berend Reents, nee Hauke, Janssen (71) Eilsum, Germany.

Mrs. Andres Andresen, nee Sarah Marfeld (86) Uphusen, Germany.

Jan Freese (74) Niewe Schans, Netherlands.

Albert Behrends (70) Eastfriestland, Germany.

Mrs. W. Smit, nee Brechtje Bussmann (70) Grossmidlum, Germany.

John Tebben (72) Boen, Germany.

Algeron Sanderson (72) Jasper County, Indiana.

Mrs. A. Sanderson, nee Jane Wolf (72) Newton County, Indiana.

Bontje Bontjes (84) Rechtsupweg, Germany.

Tebbe Diekman (70) Halbemond, by Hage, Germany.

Mrs. T. Diekman, nee Antje Evers (70) Leezdorf, Germany.

Mrs. E. H. Reyer, nee Ellen Peters (82) Hanswehrum, Germany.

Mrs. H. Bohlsen, nee Margareta Tebben (77) Velde by Dieksterhusen, Germany.

Mrs. Martin Berends, nee Johanna Hinderks (77) Stapelmoorerheide, Germany.

Berend Warrings (98) Karolinsiel, Germany.

Mattheus Aeikens (71) Boen, Germany.

Mrs. H. Schrotenboer, nee Hindriktje Benjamin (75) Oversiel, Netherlands.

Luitjen Wallenstein Boike (74) Bunderhammrich, Germany.

Mrs. L. W. Boike, nee Gepke Beekman (77) Dieksterhusen, Germany.

Mrs. H. Krommen, nee Anna K. Gales (77) Neuberg, Germany.

Mrs. P. Zeller, nee Kathrine Link (70) Luxemburg, Germany.

Eugen Schaack (75) New Trier, Minnesota, U.S.A.

Mrs. Aeise Kroenen, nee Gesina Evers (83) Stapelmoorerheide, Germany.

W. Hilbrands (73) Beschotenweg, Germany.

Mrs. W. Hilbrands, nee Gertrude Mueller (72) Boen, Germany,

Etteus Haats (88) Stapelmoorerheide, Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore F. Koch were able to come to Clara City for the celebration. The *Herald* put into print many of their reminescences and they have been most helpful in recording the early life in Clara City. Mrs. Clara Koch said:

"In the spring of 1888, Mr. Koch, myself and our little baby girl left Chicago to become citizens of Clara City. The endless prairie was dotted with flowers, wild strawberries grew in profusion, and the sunsets were something I will never forget. There was haste and excitement making the 82 farmsteads ready for the new-comers. We were all like one large, happy family—facing the future with hopeful courage. When someone went fishing, the catch was divided among us all. When one went hunting, we all received part of the game.

"Great was our delight when an outside Pastor or Priest came to hold service. We eagerly selected our best linen to fashion an altar in our house, decorating it with wild flowers and candles. Everyone attended these services. Good Bishop Ireland, not knowing that many of our people came direct from Holland or Ostfreisland, sent us priests who knew only the English language. Many of the women were homesick and longing to hear service and confess in their native tongue. One day, having received a friendly invitation from a German-speaking priest in Granite Falls, many happy woman and children started out in a big new wagon under the guidance of an elderly new-comer. We waited for their return all afternoon and at dusk, when they had not yet appeared, we became alarmed. Some of us walked out in the direction from which they should come and great was our surprise to discover the wagon right on the railroad trestle, with the horses feet dangling between the crossties. We flagged the approaching train and all helped to get the wagon and horses back to solid earth. When we asked the driver why he drove onto that bridge he replied, 'I thought American horses were trained to walk on that queer kind of bridge.'

"The arrival of new families were great events in our little community. One family came right from the land of dikes and windmills. They had provided themselves with home-land provisions such as Edam cheeses, home-baked bread and many bags filled with Holland grown seeds. The thrifty housewife even brought the big barrel for putting up the family suppy of sauerkraut. On the way across the prairie to their farm home, they were amazed to see large granite bolders strewn around. They cried, 'Look at all those fine stones, and we brought these old sauerkraut stones all the way from Holland.' Then they opened their trunks and threw out the sauerkraut stones they had carried with them all the way from Holland. (Let me explain that Holland is a flat country and has no stones. The stones must be importted from Germany.)

"When harvest time came that year, an elevator was built near the railroad. However, the Dutchmen being unfamiliar with grain elevators, loaded too much grain on one side. Over went the elevator, the pride of the community, right onto Jim Hill's Great Northern railroad track. No trains could pass, and in the midst of our confusion, came a telegram from St. Paul, 'We hold you responsible for all losses.' This had the effect of a thunderbolt. There was only one thing to be done. Each man worked like fury, loading the grain in railroad cars. Jim Hill always had a warm spot in his heart for the farmers and instead of a large fine, which we all expected, we received praise for quick action.

"In the fall of that year an event occurred which was near a disaster. Some one set fire to the tall, dry grass in the prairie. During the night, looking from our window, Mr. Koch and I noticed with horror a line of fire approaching the village. We rushed from the house and worked for hours beating the fire out with slabs of wood. When the last spark was extinguished, it was pitch dark around us and our eyes smarted. We had lost our direction and stumbled on for quite some time until at last the first light of dawn appeared, showing us the way to the peacefully sleeping village.

"When we finally reached home, and found our baby sleeping soundly in her crib, and all safe, our hearts were filled with gratitude. The next morning when the burghers saw the long black line of burned prairie, they could scarcely believe that two people alone had fought the fire and extinguished it.

"After living in Texas for many years, I returned to Clara City for a visit with Mrs. A. J. Prins in 1918. A delegation met us at the Station and the town was ablaze with lights. There were now three fine churches, a large brick public school and many new residences. The farms were surround by groves and apple orchards. The figures of the two Banks' statements totaled one million dollars. It is remarkable how attached former Clara City people are to their town. It's the friendly, courageous, spirit of its citizens that draws one back.

"May that spirit of good-will and friendliness live on forever. God bless you all."

The echoes of the celebration lingered long in the memories of the people. But before long, echoes of another kind came across the waters from Europe, again, as conflicts flared. Dec. 7, 1941 brought the United States into the war when Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Clara City gave its sons and resources in an all out effort to bring it to an end quickly. Kenneth

Emmen, Cornie Rindels, John Abbas, Clarence Coleman, Henry Caspers, Francis Haas and Garfield Maahs made the supreme sacrifice of their lives.

The following information is condensed from the pages 7965-7966 of the Congressional Record of the United States of America, Proceedings and Debates of the 78th Congress, First Session, Vol. 89, Washington, D.C., Tuesday, Sept. 28, 1943.

"Today Clara City, Minnesota stands out as the No. 1 community in the nation in the Third War Loan Drive.

"Salute the No. 1 community on the bond wagon! It's this alert Minnesota village of 844 persons. Beating the rest of the state and nation to the punch, Clara Ctiy hustled to its 3rd War Loan goal of $43,000 even before the drive opened. Their sales totaled $74,384.73 at close of business on Saturday. This is 173% of their quota. Going 'over the top' ahead of the third war loan start is a tribute to the energy and organization of local war bond officials, who decided as long ago as last April, this village would be first in this drive."

This feat was accomplished only because of the nearly 100% cooperation of all the folks in the community and the well-planned organization by the leaders in the campaign.

The 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th drives were equally successful. Probably this is one of the greatest achievements this or any other community has ever accomplished, and the credit goes to the people, who have taken it upon themselves in such a very sincere and generous way, to make sure that our quota was filled, and that it should not be our fault if our men and women, out there on the battle fronts, all over the world don't have everything they need, to bring about a speedy victory, and that everlasting peace that we all want so very much. We at home must and are doing everything in our power to protect our loved ones, for we know that they are faithful to their God and country and to us. So in the future as in the past let us all be willing to fulfill our obligations, and let our boys and girls know that we at home are very proud of them, and the job they are doing for us.

As a tribute to those who served their country in World War II the village put up a concrete bleacher at the Ball Park with a roll of honor listing the names of those who participated. Before long the Korean Conflict was upon us and two more local sons, Robert Ridler and Carl Broers laid down their lives that others might have a chance to live in freedom.

The morning of June 13, 1957 dawned sunny and bright. Those who were sound sleepers were astounded at what met their eyes, for during the night a very heavy downpour over a large area caused Hawk Creek to overflow its banks and (for Clara City) a major flood had developed. The morning was spent moving property out of the threatened areas as much as was possible. There was much damage to bridges from the swirling, debris laden waters. Basements in construction were caved in, and many basements were flooded and the walls cracked. As in all emergencies the citizenry dug in and did what had to be done and with the help of some Civilian Defense equipment soon had the problem well in hand. There is a lot of satisfaction in knowing that with the work that has been done on Hawk Creek this summer a fiasco such as this is not likely to recur. John Reuter, a driver of a milk truck, lost his life when he stepped from his stalled truck and was sucked into the raging torrent.

Life in our area as a rule slides placidly along with a steady growth and improvement. It is at times when we stop to take account that the realization dawns of what really has taken place. 1963

1957 flood, looking east from Phillips 66 Station

Back of Phillips 66 Station

Looking towards Ammerman and Koenen homes SE 1st Street.

Boike and Asche homes SE 1st Street

has been such a time. Many factors have been influential in shaping our destinies. Without them things may well have been different. The Railroad had been a determining factor from the beginning. Without it there would hardly have been a Clara City. Most railroads were a private enterprise in the early days and so was ours. Eventually the Great Northern emerged as it is known today by buying up these individually operated small lines. Little can be found about Railroad days except from the memories of a few old timers. Mike Welton was the first section boss, followed by Andrew Thorson and Ole Swanson. Mr. J. W. Tucker came to Clara City to be the night operator when the town was very young. The depot at that time was a handcar house about 8x12'. He wrote:

Section hands: seated U. Heikes. George Westendorp, John Warrings s. boss, F. Broers, Martin Mammon, John Berends, John Winterboer, Krene Janssen.

"When I arrived I was surprised to find all Hollanders except, I think, the Ericson family who lived in a dugout in the central part of town.

"There were two stores in town, Jacob Meyering, and Wm. Orlebeke, and I think, about 7 or 8 families.

"I used to meet the night passenger trains, and one little incident that occurred shortly after I had become agent, I have thought of many times.

"One warm night a little boy was put off the train with a tag fastened to his little pocket, with his destination and some other instructions on it. He was probably about 2 years old. So after locking up the station I picked the little fellow up and put him on my shoulders and carried him up to Mrs. Swiers who put him to bed after attending to his wants.

"As I carried him along the frogs were chirping in the ditch and the little fellow said: 'Listen to the little toadies singing.'

"I have often wondered what became of him."

Section Gang: John Terpstra, George Westendorp, Uke Heikes, Kort Kuhlers, Joest Reents, Martin Mammen, William Smidt, Walt Gosseling, George Johnson with shovel, Harm Bohling behind, Bernard Swanson, H. Schrotenboer.

Mr. and Mrs. Uke Heikes, Grace Getzmeyer, Mamie Stegeman, Hilda Boike.

The railroad was the nerve center as well as the bloodsteam for the early community. All materials and travel were dependent upon it. There were two passenger trains each direction each day and now there are none, though the freight business is still a big one. The William Crook type engine gave way to the big steam engines and now to diesels. At our 50th Anniversary the William Crook was here. It is now on display at the Great Northern Depot in Minneapolis. One of the Railroad employees was Uke Heikes. He was born and married (to Gertie Schwitters) in Germany coming to America in 1893. They lived first on the farm now occupied by Roy Schaller near Maynard and on the one now farmed by Ben Dirksen from which they moved to Clara City and his railroad career. Their children are John of Willmar, Hilda (Mrs. Harm Boike), and Mamie (Mrs. Jake Stageman) of Clara City, Fred who died at the age of 9, and Grace (Mrs. Ray Getezmeyer) of Raymond.

Peggy Stutelberg started work for the railroad in 1907 and is still on the job. He has seen many come and go and the many changes. His wife is the former Jennie Christians. Their son Gordon is following in his father's footsteps and is also employed by the railroad. Wallace handles the dray business. Their other children are: Hazel Spatten, Ervin (Bud), Lester, Mildred Dokken, Marian Angell, Darold, Kenneth and Allan.

George Broers is foreman of the section crew now with Matt Haas and John Ennenga working with him.

THE CLARA CITY TELEPHONE COMPANY

The first farm lines in the Clara City area were organized about 1905 or 6. There seems to be no records available. There were three independent companies: The Northern Farmers Telephone Co., The Kandiyohi and Chippewa Telephone Co., and the Rheiderland Telephone Co. Jack Stager tells us that Louis Steffens, Ben and John Bontjes and Charles Bush erected the lines for the Northern Farmers Co. They were paid at the rate of 8c per pole for digging, setting the poles and erecting the complete line. There were small exchanges in the farm homes. Rheiderland had one in the Behrends home and Miss Yetta operated the switch. There

Exchange in Bush Building, Miss Ida Ertl, Operator

was one at the John Roskens west of Clara City, at the Adolf Zeils near Raymond, at the John Lewis in Louriston, at Donners at Gluek and at the Van Heels west of Clara City.

The first records start June 15, 1907 when the three companies decided to work together and maintain a central exchange. Peter Scheltens was chosen president, D. W. Ammerman, secretary, and Henry Fokken, director; one from each of the co-operating companies. According to the minutes they purchased the Minnesota Exchange Co. housed in the Meyring building in the location where Clayton Smith's Grocery is now. It had been heretofore upstairs in what is now the John Ertl shoe shop location. Jacob Meyring was hired Oct. 12, 1907 as manager, his daughter Bessie as the first "Hello" girl. The switch board was run with dry cell batteries which had to be regenerated frequently. The newly formed company was incorporated as the Clara City Telephone Exchange Co. The purchase price was $575. The Farm lines continued to operate independently until June 1944 when they joined with the Clara City Telephone Exchange Co. and five officers were elected to the Board of Directors: Albert Bohlson, William Korn, Otto Pieper, John J. Tammen and Jacob Peterson.

Charles Bush took over the management of the Exchange in June 1915. His 5 year contract called for $125 per month for continual switch board service, line maintenance and duties and building rent. In 1912 the switch had been open from 7 A. M. to 9 P. M. from April til Nov. 1, the rest of the year from 8 to 8. In 1913 it was voted to have it open Sundays except during the hours of church services, and nights. In 1915 400 directories were printed and sold at cost to patrons.

In 1920 the Co. purchased his building for $4000, it being the one which was torn down the latter part of this summer. Jack Stager took over at this time—he doing the bookkeeping and Grover Ingalls

the rest of the managing. When Mr. Ingalls resigned May 2, 1927 Frank Wall took over his duties for two years. In June of 1929 William D. Ammerman was hired and stayed for 29 years. Upon his retirement in 1958, John Solmonson took over the management of the Co. In a special meeting of the stockholders March 18, 1960 it was decided to change over to dial. A new cement block building was put up and a new dial system installed. Dial service was cut in on April 29, 1961.

The Havelock Telephone Co. was released as a switching Co. from the Citizens Telephone Co. of Maynard in June 1961 and received service through the Clara City Exchange. June 7, 1962 the Citizens Telephone Co. of Maynard was purchased and Havelock is again serviced by the Citizens Telephone Co. with extended area service.

The present Board of Directors is composed of Enno Gerdes, president, William Korn, treasurer, Herbert Pieper, secretary, Gordon Yock and Walter Dieken. Some of the other directors who served are H. Warrings, Wm. Lembke, Jacob Steffen, Elso Davids, John Caspers, E. J. Peterson, Fred Grussing, John Barney.

Those who have worked at the switch board through the years as well as can be remembered are: Bessie Meyering, Mrs. Jacob Meyering, Elsie Fischer (Mrs. Conrad K. Tebben), Glenda Rusted, Tetka Caspers (Mrs. Everett Asche), Tillie Frikke (Mrs. Tillie Osmundson). During this time the exchange was closed Sundays and at night. One of the operators tells about being aroused from her Sunday afternoon meditations by the constable, Steve Byram, who wanted her to make an emergency call for a doctor to attend a man who had been injured in the ballgame. She had no keys to the Bush's where the switch was and they were not at home. Mr. Byram searched the place and found a window open a bit and managed to hoist and push the operator through it to make the call. Those who worked after the switch was moved to the Bush building were: Theda Fischer (Mrs. Jacob Peterson), Ida Ertl, Marcella and Idella Stager, Irene Niemeyer (Mrs. Ralph J. Fischer), Mrs. Burnett Therkelson, Violet Lepler, Dena Hedins, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Ammerman, Evelyn Buss (Mrs. David Reardon), Etta Grussing (Mrs. Martin Meyer), Hilda Wearda (Mrs. John Duitsman), Eleanor Buss, Gladys Berghuis (Mrs. George Korthuis), Mrs. Freida Buss (Mrs. John Dykhoff), Mrs. Johanna Plowman, who set a record with 17 years of service, Jennie T. Grussing, Dena Grussing who ran a close second with 15 years at the switch, Mrs. Alice Mertz, Wilmette Van Hevelyn (Mrs. John Swanson), Mrs. Sophie Suter, Mrs. Donald Onnen, Mrs. Harold Swanson (June Plowman), Rosemary Altenhofen, Mrs. Cliff Summerfield, Mrs. Brad Jorgens and Mrs. John Solmonson.

Another switchboard was added so two operators could work during the rush periods. It worked out well for those with a long reach but for those who were short it really kept them "on the jump". To one watching it looked as though they would never be able to untangle all the wires.

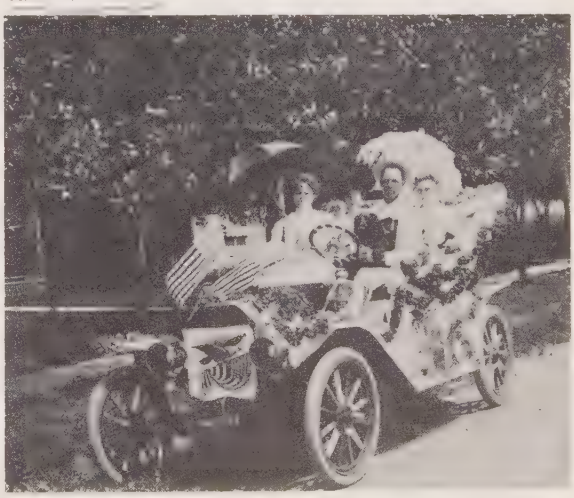
One operator recalls being called to work during a fierce blizzard. The operator on duty had to get her mother to the hospital. The doctor said he had to walk on that call and hold his bag high and he could hardly make it. The relief operator started out thru snow almost waist deep. By the time she got to the lot where Jim DeGrote's used cars are now she was hardly able to get through the deep snow there. She said she thanked the Lord the street lights were still on or she would have been lost too. A snow plow opened the road for the ambulance as they went to Willmar. Another snowplow started out from there at the same time to meet them. The patient recovered.

A short history of N.S.P. Co. electric facilities serving Clara City and the surrounding territory may be of interest during your Diamond Jubilee. Transmission or "High Voltage" service was first extended to Clara City in 1914 and to Raymond in 1915. Your supplier was the Minnesota Valley Light and Power Co. founded in 1896. Power was generated at the Minnesota Falls Hydro plant near Granite Falls and at the Montevideo Steam Plant. Transmission service was first extended to Sacred Heart in 1909, then to Clara City and Raymond. The first substation at Clara City was located near T.H. No. 23 and the Great Northern R.R. and had a capacity of 75 kva and served 149 customers. This power source survived both World War I and II. In 1945 a new supply source was built from 6 miles west of Clara City. During 1928-29 electric service was also extended to Prinsburg, Roseland, Blomkest, Lake Lillian and Cosmos areas. In 1964 a new 69kv line will be built into the Clara City area with a new 2500 kva substation to be located along the south side of T.H. No. 7 south of town. This project, representing an investment of $161,000, indicates our continued confidence in Clara City and its trade area. N.S.P. now serves 300 farms near Clara City. Significantly 10 of the farms received their first electric service from N.S.P. in 1923.

The Clara City area has been a progressive, active community for years. Almost every week our construction forces work there, installing or increasing capacity of our system so that your citizens may have the best electric service N.S.P. Co. has to offer. The fine cooperation of all our customers is truly a community trust and responsibility given to us. We intend to justify your confidence in the future.

We must also pay tribute to past and present employees representing N.S.P. Mr. W. E. Lynam and T. L. Lanning, L. W. Adams, Fred Klaus, Fred Lueck, Frank Wall and Mr. Arthur Johnson, a lineman who was fatally burned in 1926. Mr. Wall and Mr. Lueck are also deceased.

Dr. Davis was the first professional man to live in Clara City. We don't know when he came, but he was here as president of the village council in 1897. A Dr. Tilton was practicing in Clara City for two or three years about 1905-6-7 probably, with Dr. P. C. Davison coming sometime before 1910. In 1914 he decided to go back to school and made a special study of the eyes, ears, nose and throat, after which he located in Willmar. Dr. Foshager came in 1914.

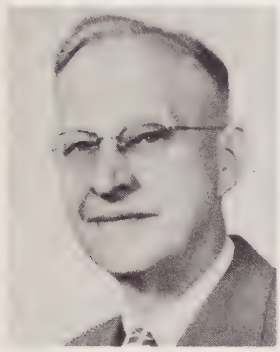


Dr. and Mrs. Davison and school teachers July 4th parade

Clara City Medical Center

Dr. Nelson bought Dr. Foshager's practice in 1946 and for three years served our community before Dr. Lundblad came to take over. Then Dr. Krystosek came, so far a time we were supplied by two doctors, both of whom left to study further. Dr. Milton Gaebe located here in 1954. Facilities were badly needed so a group of citizens loaned him the money to build a modern up-to-date Clinic. In 1960 Dr. Lyle Munneke joined the Clinic Staff and we are fortunate indeed to have these two doctors and a well equipped and staffed clinic in our town.

Dr. Henry T. Foshager was born at Pennock, Minnesota, July 13, 1881, the son of John I. and Brita (Henjum) Foshager. He was educated in the schools of his home community, and attended the St. Olaf Academy high school and St. Olaf College at Northfield from which he graduated in 1905. His medical schooling was obtained at the University of Minnesota. Following his graduation in 1909 he served his internship at Ancker Hospital in St. Paul. From 1910 to 1913 he practiced medicine at Ipswich. S. D. He then went to Willmar where he was associated with Dr. B. J. Branton for a year. In 1914 he came to Clara City where for 32 years he faithfully and conscientiously served the community as family doctor and friend.



His last hour, on the evening of October 19, 1946 was typical of his busy life. Having made arrangements for several appointments he was on his way to anwer a hurry-call from the Montevideo Hospital when he met his own appointment with death on the highway.

On August 7, 1918 he was married to Gertrude Habstritt who still resides in the home they built.

He was a member of the American Medical Association, the Minnesota State Medical Association and the Camp Release Medical Association. During World War I the Governor of Minnesota appointed him official medical examiner of the Citizens Military Training Camps and he was a member of the Board of Examiners of the Veterans Administration. On the day of his death he had received a Congressional Selective Service Medal and a certificate of Merit, expressing gratitude for the devotion and patriotism of serving his country so ably and without compensation, in time of need.

"Doc" knew all sorts and conditions of men, but he was at home with all. He enjoyed playing a game of cards with the boys at the card room at the cafe, and he liked his contacts with his medical colleagues. He like to talk "politics" and enjoyed a good argument, and visits with folks.

He was neat of appearance and was rated as the best dressed man in Clara City in a vote taken by some young folks at one time. When he came out with his cane in the spring, the season was officially here.

A grey overcast fall sky and the rustling of wilted leaves underfoot added to the solemnity of the occasion as his body was lowered to his last sleep. But even as the return of the sun dispells the gloom, even as the foliage again becomes green in due season, so also will the memory of "Doc" remain with the people he served for so many years.

Proposed Nursing Home (picture thru courtesy of Clara City Herald)

Plans are in the making for a Senior Citizens Nursing Home. The proposed site is the southwest corner of the A. Heins farm. The planning board of Board of Directors are: Elvin Weflen, chairman; Henry D. Grussing, vice chairman; Bob Brix, secretary; John Kramer, treasurer; George P. Grussing, Joe Schuman, Harold Gort, Walt Condon, Dick Wearda, Martin Meyer, A. L. Thissen and Herbert Pieper. Four members from each of the churches who are participating in the planning, form the Board. The churches are Immanuel Lutheran, St. Clara Catholic and Bethany Reformed, all of Clara City.

The first dentist in Clara Citly was Dr. C. E. Gerretson of Willmar who for a time came over on regular days. In 1910 Dr. Muedeking located here but after a year set up his practice in Montevideo for a time before he settled in Minneapolis. Dr. Hodgson came here in 1913, and also set up an office in Maynard where he went on specified days. He was followed by our own "Doc" Tholen who practiced from 1917 to 1922 with time out for World War I. Dr. David Smith then located here until his death. Dr. Bergstrand set up his office in 1928 in the new Tholen building. When he decided to move to Minneapolis in 1943 or '44 Dr. VanCampen moved into his office. A Dr. Burrington located in the Tholen building so for a short time we had two dentists in the same building. Shortly after Dr. Gaebe opened up the Clinic Dr. VanCampen moved his office there, until his death in 1962. Dr. E. C. Linden located in Clara City in 1955 and is still with us, and again we can say we are indeed fortunate to have such an able professional man with us.

Calvin Branton was the first lawyer to have an office in Clara City, above the Clara City State Bank. He was here in the early 1940's Various lawyers from Montevideo have come here on specified days at different times but until Frank Murray came in 1957 there hadn't been a resident lawyer. Mr. Robert Cudd built his home and moved here in 1959 to succeed Mr. Murray. When he joined the Citizen's Bank force Mr. Don Maland arranged to come to town one a part time basis to supply legal service to the community.

CLARA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Clara City School District No. 62 was organized on July 8, 1889. A. Veenstra, who operated a harness shop on the site of the present Brix Drug Store, was the first treasurer. L. Eenkema, owner of a hardware store, a portion of which occupied the present public library space, served as the first Clerk.

Clara City's First School

At the outset, a one-room school was built on the site of the Heins garage building. Miss Ruspel "held" school during January and February of the 1888-89 school term for $30.00 per month. Mary Claney taught the last fourth months of the school year at a salary of $35.00 per month.

By the year 1893 the fledgling school district was experiencing growing pains, as is evidenced by the following school board activity. At a special meeting on Nov. 23, 1893 a petition was read and the following motion made and approved: "That it is necessary this winter to divide the school and have two teachers." Again, at a school board meeting held on November 30, 1893 regarding where the extra teacher should teach, the following decision was made: "Motion made and passed to use Eenkema's building for three months at $25.00 per month." On December 4, 1893 another special meeting was held and the following motion passed by a vote of 11-4: "Motion made that a ballot be taken to build an addition to the schoolhouse." Finally, at a special meeting on May 4, 1894 "there was a ballot taken in making a loan of $1,225.00 and selling the old building."

As a result of the above action, the one-room school was sold to the Lutheran Church for $258.75. Later it became the property of Lammert Gerdes and is now located on the John L. Gerdes farm north of town. To replace Clara City's historic first schoolhouse, the district sold bonds to the State of Minnesota, for $1,225.00 to finance the erection of a new school. The building was erected in 1894.

1894 School

Growth of the Clara City Public School in enrollment and number of teachers after the turn of the century and up to 1950 was slow. This was because country schools were available to all rural pupils. Increase in school population, therefore, was dependent on the growth of the village. In 1906 there were five teachers, 1920 eight, 1940 twelve, and in 1950 fifteen. Following the consolidation and school building, expansion program of the fifties, a large increase in enrollment and size of faculty resulted. At present there are 29 teachers and 585 pupils.

The school house built in 1894 was used until 1917, when it was sold to the Catholic Church, after a successful special election was held on October 17, 1916 for the purpose of voting $33,000.00 in bonds to serve as partial payment for the construction of what is now the oldest part of our present structure. Total expenditure was $48,847.00. W. D. Grashuis, G. A. Leipold, George Zimmer, and Phil Henk constituted the building committee.

1917 School

Our present gymnasium was erected in 1939. Total cost was $72,431.12. The local district furnished $40,588.53. Federal grants paid the remainder. School board members at this time were J. B. Stager, H. J. Warrings, J. J. Ulferts, Henry Stutelberg, W. D. Grashuis, and Henry Andresen.

In the spring of 1951 consolidation proceedings were begun, which eventually resulted in the addition of 15 rural districts to Independent School District No. 62. This has increased the district from 7¼ sections to 102 sections, having an assessed valuation of about $2,000,000.00.

As indicated above, consolidation resulted in a large increase in enrollment. To adequately care for this influx, a building program was launched in 1954. This resulted in the newest addition to our present building, which together with equipment cost $385,000.00. Board members who rendered yeoman service during the consolidation and building program were Jack Stager, Ben Behrends, Herbert Lange, Emil Swanson, Carl Heins, Louise Tholen, Henry J. Frikke, and Wessel Kluver.

1954 Industrial Arts and Band Room, 1939 Gymnasium 1917 Building

1954 Grade School Addition

In 1959 a new lighted athletic field was constructed at a cost of $12,500.00.

At the present time there is again need for improved and expanded facilities. The school district is in the process of voting on repair and remodelling of the interior of the 1917 structure, revamping the gymnasium, and providing much needed additional elementary and high school classroom space.

Sixteen men have served as heads of the Clara City school, a position bearing the title of "Principal" in the early years and "Superintendent" thereafter. They are as follows: M. E. Sullivan 1902-03; J. L. Lewis 1903-04; William Masteller 1904-07; W. A. Ziegcher 1907-11; A. B. Jardine 1911-13; C. A. Frantz 1913-16; George Zimmer 1916-19; J. S. Schulz 1919-23; James Null 1923-24; A. O. Kramer 1924-25; Fred Sanders 1925-30; Irvin Dvergsten 1931-36; H. A. Mahler 1936-41; William Angell 1941-44; Irvin Johnson 1944-1963.

Available records, which were somewhat scanty in early days and thus jeopardize accuracy in reporting, listing the following as having been school board members from 1888-1963, namely: A. Veenstra, L. Eenkema, M. S. Carl, L. Johnson, William Best, John Jacobs, John Orlebeke, F. C. Bell, John Murphy, A. T. Archer, J. Mayma, I. Schumacher, S. Swiers, . W. Tucker, S. S. Byram, Phil Henk, P. C. Davison, John Weiland, G. A. Leipold, Rev. C. Bauer, D. Grashuis, Henry Frikke, Sr., Rev. M. Haferman, M. W. Weers, C. T. Klinghagen, J. J. Ulferts, Wm. F. Ammerman, M. F. Smith, J. B. Stager. Jr., John Davids, Dr. Bergstrand, H. F. Stutelberg, Henry Andresen, W. D. Grashuis, E. E. Bjuge, H. J. Warrings, H. W. Koester, Peter DeGrote, Emil Swanson. Ben Behrends, Eilert Klinghagen, Carl Heins, Herbert Lange, Louis Tholen, Peter Berghuis, Gordon Yock, Henry J. Frikke, Lawrence Grussing, Gladys Berghuis, Wessel Kluver, Peter Asche, Leonard Kleene Dr. M. B. Gaebe, Herman Tebben, Harry Kluver, Carl Schoenborn, Donald Peterson, Edward Roskens, Keneth I. Koenen, and George W. Caspers.

Evidence that communities kept a watchful eye on after-school activities of teachers in early times is supported by the following school board action, namely: Dec. 4, 1911—"Prof. A. B. Jardine was instructed to tell the teachers that the school board was not in favor of teachers remaining out late at night during school days." Sept. 1, 1913—"Resolved that all our teachers be forbidden to attend dances on any school night except Friday and Saturday, or which the following day is a holiday." An oldtimer, who was a pupil in this era, witnesses to the fact that this was a hardship to him too as he served in the capacity of teacher escort on some of these occasions.

Independent School District No. 62 became district No. 126 in 1957, when the Department of Education re-numbered all school districts in the state. With the trend toward larger administrative units, its future rests in the hands of the legislature. In the meantime, the school district must continue to maintain as its goal the preparation of the youth of this community so that they can make a worthwhile contribution to the glory and honor of this wonderful country.

The Clara City High School graduated its first class on May 29. 1914. There were two graduates, namely .Alma Haferman and Hilda Greenfield Graduates since then number 1078 and are as follows:

1915
Alma Flueter
Emma Priebe
Greeta Kuiper
Christ Steffens

1916
Jessie Kuiper
Arthur Greenfield
Anna Kuiper
William Orlebeke

1917
Grace Dieken

1918
Martin E. Behrends
Ulfert L. Ulferts
Florence S. Yock
Angeline W. Swiers
Mamie L. Kuiper

1919
Grace Carl
Harold Henk
David Davids
Walter Reiners
George Leipold
Ruth Greenfield
Edmond Leipold

1920
Ida H. Haferman
Esther J. Orlebeke
Esther C. Tischer
Vern J. Broderick
Francis P. Schulte
Charles C. Burges
Theodore R. Burges

1921
Marie Schroeder
Frank Benson, Jr.
Harold Bauer
William Yock

1922
Ruth Carl
Fred Bailey
Walter Thein
Lillie Kuiper
Kathryn Davids
Leonard Hirman
Clarence Burges
Dorothy Schulte

1923
Lee Bailey
Peter DeGrote
George Emmen
Bon D. Grussing
Harold Schuman
Martha Caspers

1924
Anna DeGrote
Erma Fritz
Marie Gerdes
Trientje Gerdes
Mathilda Horney
Jennie Kuiper
Alma Mammen
Esther Priebe
Bernard Swanson
Anna Tammen

1925
Irene Bailey
George Bauer
Marian Carl
Harry Kluver
Henry Hagemeyer
Gordon Yock
John Gunter

1926
Amelia Dieken
Etta Freese
John Grussing
Ruth Kuiper
Nettie Lorz
Alma Schwarzburg
Emil Swanson
Raymond Ulferts
Earl Veenstra
Christopher Weers

1927
Jennie Andreson
Mary Bailey
Floyd Byram
Helen Carl
Jeanetta Davids
Willie Davids
George D. Grussing
Wessel Kluver
Willie Scheltens
Gertrude Thein

1928
John Condon
Clara Swanson
Marie Swanson
Herman Tebben
Clara Ulferts

1929
Hantie Rachel Arends
Jane Asche
Simon DeGrote
Lawrence Grussing
Lucille Prekker
Teresa Schulte
Ruth Ulferts
George Zimmer

1930
Harold Burges
Marie Condon
Lena DeGrote
William Donner
Caroline Gosseling
Carl Heins
Hedwig Kumpf
Kazie Katherine Mockel
Patrick Remington
William Warrings

1931
Jake Bush
Hilda Duitsman
Jennie Grussing
Lawrence Harms
Emil Knipp
Claradonna Kumpf
Louise Koenen
George Kray
Reuben Nelson
Mae Scheltens
George Schulte
Tetkea Tebben

1932
Irene Donner
Mable Donner
Irene Ertl
Irene Lorz
Mary Prindle
Lorraine Rykken
Frances Schuman
John Schuman
Kasjen Tebben
Pearl Ulferts

1933
John Asche
Julius Bode
Lincoln Condon
Clarence Donner
Martin Meyer
Louis Prekker
Cora Schroeder
Irene Thom
Douglas Yock

1934
August Donner
Myrtle Klaassen
Helen Haas
Florence Carl
Arthur Hoff
Margaret Caspers
Alma Harms
John P. Caspers
Leona Buchholz
Clara Burges
Harvey Ammerman
Fern Ulferts
Robert Gerdes
Martha Bohlsen
Etta Kramer
Walter Priebe
Caroline Bush
Raymond Gunter
George Peters
Evelyn Weers
Sarah Andresen
Johanna Fuls
Clara Bush
Margaret Klinghagen

1935
William Duitsman
Emolyn Asche
Violet Caspers
Andres Andresen
Erna Klingbile
Philip Stager
John Kray
Viola Behrends
Clarence Coleman
Alma Weeldreyer
Viola Lepler
Gladyce Prekker
Robert Schulte

1936
Myrtle Lay
Alice Weers
Minnie Mockel
Clayton Rostomily
Alfred Swanson
Mary Zeller
Eva Donner
Lois Weeldryer
Elna Lepler
Carl Von Glon
Hazel Ulferts
Arlene Seeman
Francis Donner
Helen Goldenstein
Joseph Freisleben
Walter Haas
Kermit Kleene
Joest Andresen
Pearl Seeman
Eldon Rhode
Lena Grussing
Eugene Yackel
Lauretta Schuman
Pearl Wearda

1937
Edna Tebben
Hazel Stutelberg
Violet Scheltens
Iva Thews
Johanna Andresen
Sylvia Klingbile
Reuben Nelson
Marian Grussing
LeRoy Stager
Fern Jaenisch
Hilda Bohlsen
Carl Broers
Swanette VonGlon
Irene Klaasen
Loville Cronen
Susie Kluver
Ann Bohlsen

1938
Walter Hebrink
Bernice Haas
Howard Steffens
Laura Reiners
Gladys Orlebeke
Lawrence Freisleben
Jeanette Grussing
James Larson
Dorothy Wolff
Mildred Knoop
Jean Carl
Bernice Strootman
Lily Mae Sietsma
Bernice Niemeyer
Henrietta Doesken
Jeanette Duitsman
Selma Slagter
Vantyne Wulling
Reka Ackerman
Marcella Priebe
Elaine Bailey
Gordon Fischer
Helen Harms
Verna Rhode
Lester Uttermark
Willard Prekker
Charlotte Thews
Priscilla Slagter
Bernard Fischer

1939
Alfred Marcus
Luella Sietsma
Mildred Swanson
Eleanor Groothuis
Madeline Klingbile
Ceceil Tammen
Ruth Huisinga
Myrtilla Kreps
Norman Slagter
Violet Williams
Elsie Mockel
Dick Korthuis
John Berghuis
Ralph Huisinga
Jeanette Wearda
Russell Ulferts
Otto Mockel
Arnold Weflen
Leona Dohling
Joest Asche
Ervin Taatjes
Dorothy Ulferts
George Ammermann

1940
Wallace Anderson
Mildred DeGrote
F. Lorraine Bauman
Dorothy Donner
Alma Wallinga
Monica Haas
William Ledeboer
Doris Lepler
Francis Johnson
Gerald Kreps
Mildred Aalfs
Willis Wieberdink
Bessie Gerdes
Leo Suter
Virgil Henning
Tena Grussing
Walter Ulferts
Thomas Korringer
Sadie Korthuis
Florence Lange
Bessie Fuls
Edythe Nelson
Frieda Bohlsen
Alice Donner
Ellis Anderson

1941
Paul Weeldreyer
Leona Ulferts
Ernest Williams
Mary Ann Thein
Harvey Schmidt
Eunice Caspers
Alvin Roelofs
Elaine Prekker
Doris Reiners
Verl Thews
Gladys Asche
Robert McClaine
Ervin Stutelberg
Etta Reiter
Delbert Tammen
Rena Zondervan
Susie Berghuis
Theodore Huisinga
Joan Hebrink
Lammert Steffens

Ruth Roelofs
Walter Jakobs
Wilma Kreps
Howard Otto
Anthony Rhode
Melvin Fuls
Fred Freisleben
Robert Brouwer
Harold Prekker
George Ostendorf
Richard Marcus
Lester Stutelberg

1942

Dorothy Strootman
Douglas Wall
Beulah Slagter
John Korthuis
Clarence Korthuis
Velma Nelson
James Ammermann
Josie Peters
Lester Brouwer
Shirley Balster
Arthur Bohlsen
Kone Zimmer
Alvin Hoogeveen
Stanley Hoogeveen
Merle Behrends
Lenore Slagter
Milo Leek
Carol Wulling
Mable Bohlsen
Donald Benson
Ervin Weflen
Harlow Anderson
Vernon Fritz
Kenneth Emmen
Dirk Medema
Ann Ledeboer
Andrew Warrings
Joe Thein
Harry Hoogeveen
Phyllis Rykken

1943

Donald Caspers
John Emmen
Reuben Williams
Wallace Willette
Wayne Ulferts
Harold Buhr
Leonard Kramer
Fred Schoenfelder
Evert Reiter
Edward Bonnema
LaVonne Bonnema
Darlene DuHoux
Donald Molenaar
Laura Klinghagen
Ruth Johnson
Eleanor Buss
Abraham Marcus
Charles Asche
Helen Reents
Marion Stutelberg
William DeGrote
Merle Weflen
Hiram Angell
Robert Donner
Mildred Stutelberg
Hulda Donner
Mildred Sell

1944

Eileen Weiland
Marian Hubert
Delbert Barney
Mary Suter
Shirley Abel
Johanna Knoop
Irene Thein
Mildred Wellbrook
Edith Reents
Harold Visser
Harvey Fuls
Beverly Balster
Alice Peters
Doris Thein
Irene Otto
Irene Nelson
Gladys Gort
Dean Swanson
Gladys Tebben
Dorothy Bonde

1945

Betty Berghuis
Clarence Bush
Ardaith Caspers
Lyle Caspers
Violet Hanson
Anna Marie Hinrichs
Esther Hoogeveen
Eva Hoogeveen
Edith Huisinga
Beulah Knoop
Dorothy Koester
Margaret Korthuis
Helen Leek
Stanley Marcus
Marjorie Molenaar
Gloria Sechler
Mavis Sell
Gerald Slagter
Ruby Ann Stager
Lois Ann Van Campen
Esther Weeldreyer
Clair Whiting
Betty Williams

1946

Lydia Aeikens
Gladys Apol
Shirley Behrends
Gertrude Brouwer
William Cummens
James DeGrote
Phyllis DeGrote
Margaret Donner
Marlyn Emmen
Norma Huisinga
Elizabeth Peterson
Harold Reents
Gertie Reiter
Sylvia Reiter
Harvey Roelofs
Frances Slagter
Velma Stager
Cecil Suter
Verna Swart
Grace Zimmer
Eugene Bonnema
Arnold Gasterland

1947

Marilyn Apol
Ellanor Bohlsen
Barbara Cummens
Alma Dannen
Barbara Doesken
Jack Eklo
Mildred Hintz
Helen Hoogeveen
Delores Knoop
Carl Marcus
Margaret Nelson
Delores Prekker
Joyce Prekker
Donavon Roelofs
Harlan Roelofs
Delores Sechler
Dorothy Tammen
Loretta Thein
Wanda Van Heuveln
Mildred Wolfswinkle

1948

Phyllis Anderson
Donald Bohlsen
Vivian Bohlsen
Marvis Bonnema
Esther Buss
Shirley DeGrote
Kathleen Donner
Shirley Duininck
Leonard Emmen
Roger Koester
Ray Korthuis
Marilyn Ledeboer
Virgil Ostendorf
Joseph Altenhofen
Elaine Pieper
Eleanor Pieper
Delores Plowman
Lorraine Reents
Wayne Roelofs
Kenneth Schoenfelder
Gertrude Slagter
Carol Stager
Marlene Strootman
Stanley Thein
Roma Ulferts
Donald Wagner
Kathryn Walleen

1949

Donald Ammermann
Dale Marcus
Catherine Straus
Agnes Berghuis
Dorothy Breems
James Donner
LaVerne Korthuis
Marjorie Sechler
Marlene Thews
Myron Gerdes
Marlene Ammermann
Adrian Swanson
Esther Meyer
Marcia Marcus
Paul Grussing
Herman Warrings
Lowell Anderson
Mildred Thein
Ralph Cummens
Marcella Hintz
Eleanore Harms
Betty Gunter

1950

Marvin Barney
LaVonne Behrends
Arthur Boike
Mae Brouwer
Willis Ewer
Gerald Fritz
Clifton Hagemeyer
John Haubrick
Diana Hebrink
Lorraine Hoogeveen
Marvin Jakobs
Melvin Jokobs
Lois Jurgena
Loretta Kleinhuizen
Erma Klenke
Verlin Kluver
Viola Koenen
Robert Korn
Lois Ledeboer
Margaret Ledeboer
Lois Molenaar
Janita Overlander
Wilma Peterson
Wendel Pieper
Ronald Priebe
John Ruschen
Agnes Schoen
Marilyn Schoen
Duane Schoenfelder
Henry Sechler
Rosann Suter
Marcella Van Hove
Ted Van Hove
Ruth Wearda
Justin Weeldreyer
Wilmine Zimmer

1951

William Altenhofen
Ardis Apol
Fred Asche
Glen Barney
Lynn Behrends
Alyce Brouwer
Stanley Brouwer
Donald Brunner
Janice Coleman
Lowell Dannen
Gayle DeGrote
Marvin Dieken
Joe Donner
Dennis Emmen
Ann Gerdes
Virgil Gerdes
Arleen Hanson
Robert Harris
Marilyn Hilbrands
Fred Hintz
Doris Kleene
Ellen Koenen
Charlotte Korn
Harold Korthuis
Phyllis Kreps
Lois Kruger
Delroy Ledeboer
Marlyne Osmundson
Adrian Peterson
Doris Pieper
JoAnn Roelofs
Charles Stager
Chester Stager
Leona Suter
Kenneth Swart
Carrol Tammen
Ann Tebben

1952

Gordon Ammermann
Robert Berghuis
Cora Behrends
Grace Bleninger
Charles Breems
Idell DeGrote
Beverly Fokken
Delores Gerdes
Marvis Gort
Calvin Grussing
Dorothy Gunter
Leslie Hagemeyer
Wesley Hagemeyer
Dale Hayunga
Frances Klinghagen
Gwenn Knipp
Ruth Korthuis
Richard Marcus
Shirley Marcus
Orville Meints
June Prekker
Ruth Schieldahl
Phyllis Schoen
Henry Stager
LeVern Sweep
Clarence Teichert
Carol Tholen
Robert Torney

1953

Kathryn Ammermann
Vernon Ammerman
Dean Anderson
Dwaine Anderson
Clarence Beckman
Gerald Behrends
Harlene Buss
Donald Coleman
Marlene Fritz
LaVonne Gatzmeyer
James Gerdes
Shirley Goldenstein
Audrey Grussing
Norman Grussing
Roger Huisinga
Calvin Jaenisch
William Jaenisch
Arlene Kleene
Lester Klinghagen
Lyla Koenen
Norman Ledeboer
August Langenbau
Stanley Meyer
Rodney Molenaar
Alma Negen
Muriel Peterson
Shirley Reiners
Harry Roelofs
Mavis Roelofs
Marion Sell
Dorothy Slagter
Ervin Swanson
Eugene Thein
Erna Waschman

1954

Clarice Barney
Genevieve Bohlsen
Alvin Bonnema
Orrin Brouwer
Marlene Buhr
Frances Dahm
Donald DuHoux
Donna DuHoux
Roger Gehrke
Robert Haubrick
Wesley Hebrink
William Hilbrands
Eugene Hirman
Dennis Kluver
Shirley Koenen
Calvin Korn
Harold Kruger
Donald Marcus
Clifton Meints
Kenneth Meints
Esther Mulder
Evelyn Ostendorf
Katie Peterson
Kenneth Priebe
Shirley Roelofs
Ernestine Schuman
Mavis Tammen
Berton Van Heuveln
Alice Wachsman
Barbara Westendorf
Beverly Wieberdink
Marjorie Yock

1955

Jerome Altenholfen
Esther Ammermann
Delanoe Anderson
Marlene Barney
Patricia Berghuis
Henry Breems
Lois Brouwer
Judith Clements
Alva Mae DeGrote
Janice Dragt
Jerry Erickson
Doris Fokken
Leonard Fokken
Kenneth Gerdes
Marcella Goldenstein
Marlys Grussing
Roger Grussing
Jerlyn Hargarth
Marlys Henslin
Leonard Hilbrands
John Hirman
Abel Hoogheem
Marlene Jaenisch
Lambert Kleene
Dorothy Klinghagen
Clarence Klenke
Anna Kluver
Mary Lou Kluver
Caroline Kron
Audrey Modderman
George Modderman
Carolyn Negen
Ervin Niemeyer
Margie Peters
Lorraine Pieper
Ruby Plowman
Russell Plowman
Emma Post
Dennis Reiners
Darryl Schoen
Trena Schroeder
Yvonne Sechler
Ronald Stager
Mary Straus
Dennis Strootman
Alan Stutelberg
Duane Sweep
Calvin Tebben
Katherine Thein
Dennis Thein
John Tholen
Beverly Van der Pol
Donald Van Hove
Melvin Wieberdink
Myrna Wieberdink
Vernon Wieberdink
Sharon Wolff
Inez Zimmer

1956

Gerald Ammermann
Robert Balster
Dorothy Barnard
Leonard Bohlsen
Harlan Dragt
Ronald Dragt
Glen Gerdes
Clarice Gunter
Shirley Harms
Bernell Hoogheem
LaVonne Hoogheem
Edwin Jaenisch
Todd Johnson
Evelyn Klinghagen
Vera Koenen
Eloise Kray
Edna Meyer
Lucille Meyer
Eugene Ostendorf
Linda Roelofs
Jerome Schuman
Arlen Schwitters
Geneva Slagter
Lois Swanson
Marian Swart
Roger Sweep
Anthony Thein
Peter Thein
Kathleen Vande Steeg
Rodney Wieberdink

1957

Leo Aeikens
Donna Ammermann
Marjorie Ammermann
Harley Barney
Marlys Buchholz
Carol Caspers
Gayle Clements
Marjorie Coleman
Allen Erickson
John Fischer
Ronald Fritz
Ardis Fokken
Muriel Gerdes
Emolyn Grussing
James Grussing
Stanley Hagemeyer
James Hagert
Roger Heins
Arlys Hilbrands
James Jaenisch
Larry Johnson
Vernon Jurgens
Esther Kluver
Richard Lynam
Allen Meints
Donald Meyer
Karen Nelson
Marion Peterson
Lee Ann Prekker
Ronald Prekker
Dennis Priebe
Beverly Prindle
Duane Schoen
Delwin Schwitters
Sidney Sell
Sharon Sweep
Patricia Thein
James Wagner
Harvey Wieberdink
Carol Woltjer
Karen Yock
Martha Zeller
Ruth Ann Zimmer

1958

Kathleen Aalfs
Shirley Aeikens
Madelon Altenhofen
Sandra Ammerman
Bernard Asche
Dorothy Asche
Barbara Bush
LaDonna Clements
Carole DeGrote
Carol Dragt
Eunice Duitsman
Inez Gehrke
Marcia Goldenstein
Elwood Grussing
Betty Harms
Bonnie Hebrink
Myron Hebrink
John Jaenisch
John Koenen
Anita Kron
David Meyer
Marlan Ostendorf
Donna Peterson
Eunice Plowman
David Prekker
Harm Rand
Sandra Reiners
Winifred Ruiter
Ann Schjeldahl
Margaret Schroeder
Joan Sommerfield
James Stager
Kermit Swanson
Darryl Sweep
Rodney Taatjes
George Thein
Lois Van Binsbergen
Gene Wieberdink

1959

Eldon Aeikens
Clifford Andresen
Stanley Barney
Marcella Beckman
Elaine Behrends
Walter Bluhm
Joyce Boike
Shirley Buhr
Berend Davids
Betty Feldman
Carol Frikke
Darrell Gehrke
LaVonne Gehrke
Joan Gerdes
Janice Goldenstein
Robert Goldenstein
Sharon Gort
Nancy Grussing
Audrey Hagert
Wayne Harguth
Lowell Hilbrands
Lyle Hilbrands
Paul Jaenisch
Lowell Kluver
Lois Koenen
Barbara Lange
Denise Lanning
Mary Ann Leiser
LaVonne Meyer
Sandra Meyer
Marlys Negen
Stanley Ostendorf
Roger Ostendorf
Eloise Peters
Jerome Sechler
DeWayne Smith
Judy Sommerfield
Robert Stager
LaVonne Stutelberg
Steven Thang
Thomas Thein
Ann Wachtler
Roger Weers
Dennis Westendorf
Carol Wold
Monica Groebner

1960

Harley Aalfs
Sharon Aalfs
Charles Ammerman
Corrine Ammerman
Fay Ammerman
Lois Ammermann
Delores Andresen
Charles Asche
Harland Asche
Larry Berghuis
Judith Boike
Everett Buss
Thomas Condon
Mary Danielson

Larry Dannen
Roger DeBeer
Dennis DeGrote
Andrey DeGrote
Carol Doesken
Valerie Donner
Elaine Duitsman
Esther Duitsman
Dennis Erickson
Patricia Gehrke
Dennis Gerdes
Sharon Grussing
Ronald Hagemeyer
Dennis Harguth
Robert Harms
Delores Hoogheem
Carol Heins
Steven Heins
Lillian Kluver
Ruth Kluver
LaVonne Klinghagen
Norman Klinghagen
Esther Koenen
Rodney Kray
Clifford Lanning
Kathleen Meyer
Sharon Meyer
Jeanette Peterson
Lyle Peterson
Virginia Schafer
Wayne Schwitters
Barbara Thein
William Thissen
Steven Taatjes
Gene Underland
Delores Wearda
Loren Weers

1961

David Abbas
Norman Ammermann
Ardis Anderson
Roger Andresen
Elizabeth Berends
Lucille Brouwer
Sharon Bulthuis
Marletta Dragt
Jessie Epema
James Fokken
Janis Frikke
Sandra Fritz
Arlette Gerdes
Kay Grussing
Beverly Gunter
Dianne Gunter
Richard Harms
Steven Henslin
Darrel Hoogheem
Marie Husby
Daniel Jaenisch
Leonard Kluver
Carole Koenen
David Koenen
Kenneth Kray
Marvin Kray
Mary Marso
Gordon Meyer
Gerald Miller
Lyle Popma
Paulene Popma
Cecil Reiners
Roland Schwitters
Donald Slater
Gerald Slater
Mary Smith
Lenore Stager
James Thein
Joann Van Houten
Sandra Warrings
Sharon Woltjer

1962

Eunice Ahrenholz
Alvina Ammerman
Melvin Andresen
Gerald Barney
Michael Berghuis
Chester Boike
Karen Broers
Carol DeBeer
Sally Doesken
Lorraine Epema
Judee Gehrke
Steven Gehrke
Linda Gerdes
Arlyn Grussing
Dale Hagert
Keith Harms
Paul Harms
James Haubrick
Delroy Hayunga
David Heen
Karen Hilbrands
William Johnson
Carol Kluver
James Kluver
Dorinda Koenen
DuWayne Koenen
Wayne Koenen
Leon Muller
Clifford Olson
Patricia Oveson
Leslie Peterson
Patricia Roskens
David Schafer
Sandra Tammen
LaVonne Thein
Bernell Warrings
Mary Weflen

1963

Kenneth Aalfs
Lenora Ammerman
Wallace Ammerman
Willis Ammerman
Alvin Andresen
Doris Asche
Cassandra Berghuis
Carol Benson
Leonard Bluhm
Phyllis Brouwer
LaVonne Davids
Diane DeGrote
Jerome Duitsman
Betty Erickson
Karen Fokken
Joan Gehrke
Robert Gerdes
Sherry Granger
Jana Gunter
Eunice Harms
Janice Harms
Lyle Hebrink
Lila Huisinga
Rochelle Janssen
Richard Johnson
Judith Johnson
Rosaline Kluver
James Koenen
Kathleen Koenen
Paulette Kray
Marlys Lanning
Jean Meyer
Michael Meyer
Yvonne Sathoff
Thomas Schafer
Stephen Robert Smith
Edward Woltjer
Laird Yock

The following have been awarded Equivalence Certificates as a result of having achieved satisfactory scores on the General Educational Development Tests administered by the United States Armed Forces Institute.

Name	*Year*
Milton Prekker	1946
Donald L. Fales	1949
Martin Breems	1949
Harold Swanson	1950
Donald W. Janssen	1951
John Swanson	1951
Gerald Ledeboer	1952
Darrell Harguth	1953
Nelson Zondervan	1953
Clifford Mulder	1954
Robert Prekker	1954
Kenneth Brouwer	1954
Michael Condon	1954
Melvin G. Kleinhuizen	1956
Kenneth Stutelberg	1956
John Zimmer	1957
Paul Wachtler	1960
Donald Wieberdink	1960
Robert DeGrote	1961

CLARA CITY PTA

The Clara City PTA was organized on December 3, 1952 with the objectives of "Better Homes—Better Schools—Better Communities." Seventy-four parents and teachers were signed up as charter members at the first meeting. The organization agreed to meet on the second Monday of each month at 8 o'clock in the school gym. The first officers elected were president, Lawrence Grussing; Vice-president, Mrs. Harley Berghuis; secretary, Mrs. Leonard Dalen; treasurer, Jerry Sechler; and historian, Mrs. Albert Tholen.

Presidents throughout the years have been Pat Wolff—1953, Henry Frikke—1954, Emil Swanson—1955, Jerry Gullickson—1956, Carl Schoenborn—1957, Carl Heins—1958, Harold Buhr—1959, Dean Shaw—1960, Arnie Weflen—1961, and Mrs. Lawrence Grussing—1962. Present officers for the year 1963-64 are President—Mrs. Carol Buesing, Secretary—Mrs. George Becker, Treasurer—Mrs. Jake Bush, and historian—Mrs. Lorene DeGrote.

In 1954 the PTA was active in helping to organize the School Patrol. That year the meeting date was changed to the third Monday of the month. In 1960 it was decided to hold meetings every other month. An annual highlight of the November meeting is the Open House. Throughout the year the programs are devoted to a greater understanding between the home and school.

In 1961 a scholarship fund was set up to award $100 scholarships to worthy students who intend to further their education. These schoalrships have been awarded to Sharon Woltjers in 1961, Karen Hilbrands in 1962, and Bob Smith in 1963.

An annual event sponsored by the PTA is the Spring Round-up to acquaint beginning first-graders with the routine of school.

THE CLARA CITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Clara City High School Alumni Association was formally organized Sept. 27, 1957. About 300 alumni and their guests attended a banquet in the Public School Gym. The officers elected to head the organization were Gordon Yock, Pres.; Mrs. Bert Prekker, Sec.; Peter DeGrote, Treas.

At the 1958 meeting it was decided to publish a directory listing the alumni and their addresses. Harold Bauer, class of '21, delivered an address. Officers elected were: Martin Meyer and Carl Heins, Pres.; Mrs. Philip Stager and Mrs. August Lepler, Sec.; Herman Warrings and Virgil Henning, Treas.

The third meeting was held Oct. 8, 1960. At this meeting two former superintendents returned to reminesce, Mr. Irvin Devergsten in an impromptu talk expressed amazement at the progress of the Clara City High School. He recalled some pleasant memories, among them the swing band of his era. Mr. Hubert Mahler recalled the nasty winters and remembered that his first official duty was to close school because of a blizzard. Colonel George W. Schulte, Class of 1931, stationed at Offet Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska also spoke to the group.

During the "Diamond Jubilee" celebration an informal "get-to-gether" was held at the Public School. The next formal meeting is scheduled in the fall of 1966.

ST. CLARA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Church of St. Clara of Clara City, Minnesota, was incorporated on September 25, 1891. The Articles of Incorporation were signed by John Ireland, the Roman Catholic Bishop of St. Paul; Thomas L. Grace, the Vicar General of the Diocese; Hugo Victor, Pastor of the mission parish of Clara City and residing at Marshall, Minnesota; Mr. Ferdinand Abbes and John Murphy, the two lay trustees.

The founding of the St. Clara Parish was the result of the first meeting of Catholics of the Clara City territory on October 26, 1890. This meeting had been attended by Stephen Abbes, John Murphy, Jakob James Mueller, Henry Hammes, Eugene Becker, Anton Fritz, William Hammes, Henry Schamp and Henry Jasken. John Murphy was elected the president; Ferdinand Abbes, secretary. At this meeting it was further decided to build a Church immediately.

German Catholic Church

Services for catholics in and around Clara City had been held previous to this time. Mass was offered in the house of Mr. Fred Abbes in the spring of 1889, by Father McEvay of Marshall. On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Parish, Mrs. Clara Koch recalled that she had helped to decorate the Altar for the first Catholic service at Clara Citl,—which was held at her home, some time before the Parish was incorporated.

The first Church was a small frame building, 37 by 30 feet in size. It served the purpose for a period of five years. In 1897, an additional 30 feet was added to this structure, at the cost of $1189.13.

Father Victor had served the parish in its incipient stages, 1890 to 1894. He was succeeded by Father Jaeger, also of Marshall, 1894 to 1898. Father Buckler became the first resident Pastor in 1898.

At first, Father Buckler's residence was a small one-room annex next to the Church. He drew up plans for, and constructed a new parish house. The cost was in the neighborhood of $1600.00. This frame building still stands today. Though remodeled from time to time, it well preserves its original appearance and still serves as the Pastor's residence.

Father Buckler stayed but little more than a year. From the time of his departure, October 4, 1899, until July 1901, Father Kerze, Father Hampesh and Father A. J. Heuvel remained only a short time each and successively.

The pastorate of Father Ignatius Schumacher began in July of 1901, and came to a close on September 15, 1917. The new Pastor of 1901 found that the Parish had grown to 65 families, numbering about 275 souls. His first project was the construction of a new Church of the Sacred Heart at Raymond, Minnesota, which he then served as a Mission. The Sacred Heart Parish remained a Mission of St. Clara's until 1931. Both the parishes of St. Clara and Sacred Heart progressed steadily during the fourteen-year-pastorate of Father Schumacher. Much talk there was toward the end of his pastorate of a parochial school for the parish. The plans were to be realized by his successor, as Father Schumacher was transferred to St. Raphael's of Springfield in 1917.

The next Pastor, Father Andrew Koller, found a parish of ninety families, with one hundred and fifteen children of school age at St. Clara's. His first concern was the new school. At the annual meeting January 11, 1918, the board of directors consisting of Father Andrew Koller, Fred Freese, Secretary; Philip Henk, Treasurer; John Thissen, Joseph Horney, Fred Harguth, Frank Habstritt, Xavier Suter and Eugene Thein, decided to erect a parochial school. The public school building, erected in 1894, was bought by the Parish, moved across the street and remodeled. The building provided the Sisters' department, the Boarders' department, and the School. Work began in February 1918, with the men of the parish doing the excavating and foundation work. The School was dedicated on Sunday, September the first, 1918, in the presence of a large assembly. Father Anton Scholzen,

First St. Clara School

then of St. Mary's, Bird Island, delivered the address.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Mankato Province staffed the School. The first Sisters in charge were: Sister M. Andrina, Sister M. Claude, Sister M. Gregor, Sister M. Martha, and two candidates, Sister Emma and Sister Catherine.

The School opened on September 9, 1918, with an enrollment of 62 pupils. The children coming from a distance were given opportunity to board. There were as many as fifty-two boarders at one time in the original St. Clara School building.

The first graduates of St. Clara School were: Arthur Benson, Norbert Cord, Leonard Hirman, Peter Schuman and Mary Suter.

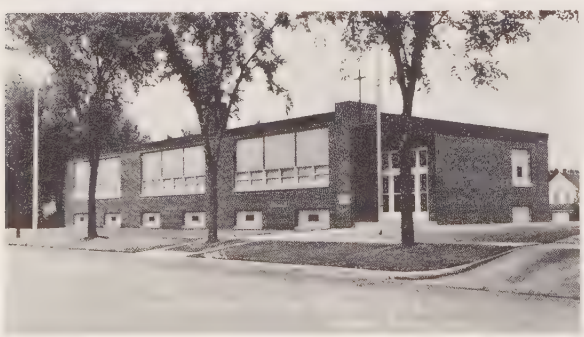
The next project of major concern for Father Koller was the building of a new Church. The first Building had outlived its usefulness and lacked the necessary capacity. At the special meeting of the Pastor and Trustees, the vote was in favor of a new Church. Present at the meeting were: Father Andrew J. Koller, Pastor; Mr. G. N. Schulte, treasurer; Mr. Xavier Suter, secretary, Mr. F. M. Condon, Mr. A. C. Rhode, Mr. Wenzel Schoen, Mr. T. J. Gunter, Mr. John Thissen, Mr. Peter P. Thein and Mr. Joseph Horney. The cost of the Church, of brick construction, and of the furnishings was about sixty thousand dollars. The cornerstone was laid on March 24, 1928. The Church Dedication ceremonies were held on October 9, 1929.

In August of 1931, Father Joseph P. Dohmen became Pastor of the Parish,—now struggling with a debt in the midst of the famous depression. He was in poor health, and finally took a leave of absence for this reason. During his absence and until his death,—January to July of 1934,—Father Joseph Ettel was administrator of the Parish. Father Joseph A. Kern was appointed to succeed him. He was Pastor until December of 1936.

Father Kern was succeeded by Father Karl Wohlfahrt, 1936 to 1944. During these last two pastorates, the country was again enjoying days of prosperity. Under Father Wohlfahrt, the Parish became deft-free, for the first time in fifteen years. The second World War was now in progress, and many of the young men were called to active military service.

Father Nicholas Gillen came in 1944. Several repainting and repair jobs put off by the previous Pastor in the effort to clear the parish of debt, were now performed. The Church and Parish house were repainted and redecorated. The School, now a frame building over sixty years of age, called for attention. Plans were drawn up for the construction of a new building. These plans never materialized. Father Gillen was transferred to the Parish at New Trier in 1951.

Father Harold Hesse took up the project of the new school building on his arrival. The present five-classroom structure, with auditorium, washrooms and storage facilities was provided for the sum of $85,000.00 The new building was dedicated on October 24, 1953. St. Clara's was deft-free and in good physical condition when Father Hesse was transferred to St. Mary's of New Ulm, on February 1, 1962. He was succeeded by Father Michael Guetter on that date.



Present building of St. Clara School

Present St. Clara Catholic Church

St. Clara's now has a membership of about 600, made up by 145 families, and notes an annual increase as the years pass on. The school now has an enrollment of 137 pupils. It is presently (1963-1964) staffed by three School Sisters of Notre Dame, and one lay teacher. These Sisters are: Sister M. Philomena, Principal, Sister M. Bernard Ann, Sister M. Albert, and Miss Mary Geurts. The boarding department has been discontinued now for about fifteen years.

Several long-established parish societies have been active during the greater part of the parish history. They sponsor parish activities and in varied ways help meet the needs of the parish.

The oldest of these societies is the St. Anthony Society, a unit of the Catholic Aid Association of Minnesota. Its charter members in 1898 were Jacob Schuman, Henry Straus and Eugene Thein. The following year, Fred Freese, Mathias Dondelinger, Mathias Straus, Matt Thom, Wenzel Freisleben, John E. Schulte, Peter P. Thein, Eugene Schaack and John Freisleben became members. Their membership at present is 118.

The local K.C. Club, a branch of the Montevideo Council, works jointly with the St. Anthony Society in parish activities.

The most-recently established (1962) organization for both men and women, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, provides religious instruction for the boys and girls attending public schools.

The St. Clara Society, as also the Young Ladies Sodality is at present inactive.

The Christian Mothers' Confraternity enrolls the ladies of the parish. Their membership is well over 100. By its various subdivisions and helper groups, it very efficiently answers to the needs of the parish,—spiritually, socially and financially. The Confraternity is affiliated with the National, as also the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the years 1887 and 1888 several German Lutherans coming from the states of Iowa and Illinois settled in the vicinity of Clara City. The land on these prairies offered many opportunities for their future temporal welfare but one thing was lacking. They had no spiritual leader of their faith. Through the efforts of one of the first settlers, Herman Zuelke, who had come here from Watertown, Wisconsin, Rev. G. Blessin was sent here to help organize the church in 1889.

The first congregation of 17 families consisted of the following charter members: Kasjen Hayunga,

G. Tunegel, B. A. Behrends, Behrend Beekman, Behrend Warrings, Herman Zuelke, Julius Spieker, Theodore Reinholt, Ed Barbknecht, Luitjen Bueke, August Warmbold, Lammert Kleene, Arnt Mueller, Wilhelm Bangs, George Behrends, Luecken Beekman, and Heinrich Kramer.

During the summer of 1889 a student pastor, Arnold Janssen, served the congregation and services were held in the elevator of the Dutch Land Company. The Reverend Schroeder was then called and he served as the first ordained pastor for one year.

The first church edifice, 13x36 was completed in 1890 and Rev. H. Hafermann became pastor and served two years. It was during his ministry that the congregation purchased two acres of ground for cemetery purpose.

Rev. Arnold Janssen took over the pastorate when Rev. H. Hafermann accepted a call to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Due to illness, Rev. Janssen was forced to resign after serving one-half year.

First Immanuel Lutheran Church

Rev. Martin Hafermann and family

Rev. Martin Hafermann, who had arrived from Germany in 1893 became the next pastor and served faithfully for 35 years. During his pastorate a parsonage was constructed and the original church building was enlarged and remodeled. After his death in 1929, the congregation was without a regular minister until the spring of 1930 when Rev. Paul J. Kumpf accepted the call to serve Immanuel congregation. During his pastorate the present edifice of brick was completed, the dedication of which took place in October, 1930. Pastor Kumpf served the congregation faithfully until 1948 when he accepted a call to Talmadge, Nebraska.

Rev. Lechner of Raymond conducted most of the services then until Rev. Norbert Augst came to the congregation in June 1949. The old parsonage was moved and a new one built in 1950. A Parish Hall was constructed in 1954.

Rev. Fred Mueller moved here to serve as pastor of the church when Rev. Augst accepted a call to West St. Paul in 1956. He served the congregation

Present Immanuel Lutheran Church and Parsonage

faithfully from then until May 1961 when he accepted an office with the Southwestern District of the American Lutheran Church in Willmar, Minn.

The present pastor, Rev. Arthur Nickel came to the congregation in June of 1961. During the year of 1961 a storage vault of polished granite was erected on the cemetery.

The membership of the congregation has increased from the original seventeen families to 400 families at the present time. The baptized membership of the congregation is 1,400. In 1964 Immanuel Church will observe its Diamond Jubilee.

The first Sunday School was conducted in the German language. When it was decided to use English they formally organized in 1918, with Rev. Hafermann as superintendent, Martin Weers was secretary. Some of the early teachers were Lena Tholen, Anna Fleuter, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stager. In 1927, when Rev. Hafermann passed away, Jack Stager became superintendent, and remained in that capacity until the 1950's. In 1960 we added a 6 member Parish-Education Committee. The Sunday School started with about 25 pupils.

The Lutheran Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1910, when Rev. Hafermann called a meeting of interested women. Ten responded and the Aid was organized. They were Mrs. Geerd Janssen, Mrs. Henry Klenke, Mrs. Gust Priebe, Mrs. August Leipold, Mrs. Eibe Tholen, Mrs. Jacob Steffens, Mrs. B. A. Behrends, Mrs. M. Hafermann, Mrs. Lammert Gerdes, and Mrs. Fred Broers, who was the first president. Mrs. Lammert Gerdes was vice-president and Mrs. M. Hafermann the secretary-treasurer.

This organization grew in numbers through the years until the membership was well over a hundred women. They served very capably, assisting the congregation by purchasing the pipe organ and other innumerable needs of the church edifice as well as doing much in the field of missions.

A Women's Missionary Society was also active in the mission work of the church. They and the Ladies Aid became the organization known as the L.C.W., Lutheran Church Women, in 1961.

The Luther Leagues, The Men's Brotherhood and the Fireside Club are also active organizations of the church.

BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH

Seventy-five years ago various Eastfriesian families made the journey from Iowa and other states to Rheiderland township. Eventually missionaries followed these settlers to their new homes. One of these missionaries was the Rev. J. Kolb, a Presbyterian minister who first visited Clara City in the summer of 1888. The settlers desire for a church was met on January 30, 1889, when a congregation was organized, taking on the name, The Rheiderland Presbyterian Church. Rev. Kolb supplied the new congregation as missionary until in April, 1890, when a call was sent to Mr. H. Sill, a Presbyterian seminary student.

First Bethany Reformed Church

During the years 1890-1899, certain misunderstanding arose between the St. Cloud Presbytery and the local congregation. This misunderstanding reached a climax when Pastor Sill moved under the jurisdiction of another Presbytery, and the congregation slipped quietly away from the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., into the Reformed Church in America. Now the congregation belonged to a Classis where all spoke their mother tongue. The official transition took place on November 21, 1899, at which time a new name, The Bethany Reformed Church of Clara City, was adopted.

1913 Bethany Church

Bethany Church Remodeled in 1941

Present Bethany Reformed Church 1955

In 1900, seven months after the transition, a minister of the Reformed Church, Rev. E. Aeilts, was ordained and installed in the Bethany Church.

The next pastor to serve the Bethany church was Rev. G. Veenker who was installed in September, 1904. After four years of service, a lingering illness forced him to resign.

For a year the pastorate was vacant unti September, 1910, when Rev. C. Bauer was installed. For seventeen years he was to lead the Bethany congregation. Two years after his installation a new church building was started and on May 18, 1913, was dedicated. In 1914 the Christian Endeavor composed of young people was organized, and five years later the Ladies Aid began with twenty charter members. In April, 1927, Rev. Bauer terminated his work at Bethany and moved to New York.

In July, 1927, Rev. M. Weeldryer and his family moved into a rented house which was serving for a short time as parsonage. Within five months they moved into a newly built parsonage, which was to be their home for the next twenty-six years. Those years too were to prove eventful. In 1940 the change in the use of languages posed a problem, but after some time the problem was worked out. Also during this period the church experienced quite rapid growth so that by 1949, 281 families were listed on the roll. To handle this growth the church was remodeled and October 23, 1941, was rededicated.

In 1953 Rev. Weeldryer accepted a call from The Trinity Reformed Church of Allison, Iowa. Consequently, a call was sent to Rev. Edward Jurgens, then pastor of the Wellsburg Reformed Church of Iowa, and on October 29 his installation took place.

The past ten years have been very active ones for the Bethany church and the Jurgens family. In 1955 a new church was built at the cost of $201,000, and in January the new sanctuary was dedicated. Later, in 1962, stained glass windows were installed. Also during the past ten years three new groups have been organized: the Brotherhood composed of the men of the congregation, the Mission Circle composed of the young married women, and the Girl's League. In 1959 a unit of support of Rev. Robert Block, missionary to Iraq, was taken on.

In the past seventy-four years six sons of the Bethany Reformed Church have become ministers of the gospel: David E. Davids, Andrew Meyer, Andres W. Andresen, Harvey Ammerman, S. W. Duitsman, and Roger Grussing. At present Stanley Hagemeyer is also attending seminary.

Seventy-five years after the founding of Clara City and seventy-four years after the founding of the first congregation, the Bethany Reformed Church has a membership of 310 families which includes 719 communicant members and 546 baptized non-communicant members.

DUTCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Dutch Presbyterian church grew out of an evangelistic campaign put on by the St. Cloud Presbytery through its Sunday School Missionary, Rev. Thomas Scotton and its minister at large, Rev. A. W. Wright. A Sunday School was organized in Sept. 1894 with Martin Bush as Superintendent. For some years it was sort of a union Sunday School and was a large one with 90 children enrolled. Among those first superintendents were Mr. Henry Schwitters, Mrs. Veenstra and Mrs. M. S. Carl. Mrs. Orlebeke was one of the leaders also. Mrs. Carl taught a class of the biggest boys and recalls Harold Burges, Raymond Ulferts, John Harms and the Hoogheem boys. When the Lutheran church opened their Sunday School the Lutheran children went to that.

Holland Reformed Church

Some time in the late 1890's the congregation that had developed became associated with the Reformed Church of America and became known as the Holland Reformed church. All the records seem to have been lost and most of the families moved away. In about 1930 a move was made to join with the Bethany Reformed Church which was now using the English language at least part of the time and this merger was effected in 1931. 37 years is not a long life for a church but it is recorded by Rev. Bauer, "It has done good work in our midst" and served for many as a place of worship using the English language, when they could not understand the Dutch and German used in other churches.

CLARA CITY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

The Clara City Christian Reformed Church is the youngest of the churches in our fair city. On June 10, 1951 a number of families of the Christian Reformed faith met for worship service in the gym of the local public school where they continued to meet throughout the summer. In September it became necessary to find another meeting place. It was then we moved to the room above the Clara City State Bank.

Our church was duly organized on November 6, 1951 in the neighboring church at Bunde with a total of twenty families from which three elders and two deacons were elected. The charter members were the following families, Nan F. Ammermans, Richard F. Ammermans, Art Bohlsens, John Bohlsens, Egbert K. Brouwers, Kone E. Brouwers, Wallace Kluvers, William Kluvers, Conrad C. Tebben Jr., John Van Houtens, Martin Wubbens, Albertus Zimmers, Egbert Zimmers, Helmer Nieubertas, Fred D. Ammermans, George D. Ammermans, Gerrit Haaglands, Wilbur Louters, Helmer Moddermans and the Henry H. Negens.

The first Ladies Aid meeting was held on November 14, 1951. Mrs. Wilbur Louters was elected president; Mrs. Conrad C. Tebben Jr. vice-pres.; Secretary, Mrs. William Kluver with Mrs. Nan F. Ammerman assistant; Treasurer, Mrs. Richard F. Ammerman with Mrs. Albertus Zimmer assistant; Custodian, Mrs. George Ammerman. The present officers are: President, Mrs. Clayton Vreeman, with Mrs. Catherine Muller as vice-president; Secretary, Mrs. Albertus Zimmer; Treasurer, Mrs. Martin Wubben; and Mrs. Bill Goeman as assistant Sec.-Treas.

Clara City Christian Reformed Church

On November 25, 1951 Rev. Viss of the Prinsburg church conducted the first baptism, that of Gloria Zimmer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albertus Zimmer.

The new congregation purchased a lot on the south end of town from Mrs. Dora Elberts, who is now a member of the congregation. She was the first child born to settlers in Rheiderland township. A vacated school house was purchased and moved to the basement which had been prepared. After many hours and days of faithful volunteer labor the school house was remodeled to double its size. It now serves as a very adequate and simple, yet attractive house of worship. On July 9, 1952 this building was dedicated to God as a House of Worship.

During the summer of 1951 Seminarian Paul Venstra, now pastor at Comstock Park, Michigan served our church. Various ministers of Classis Minnesota occupied our pulpit until Seminarian Kermit Reitma, now of Arcadia, Calif. spent the summer of 1952 with us. In September our first resident pastor, Rev. Martin Zylstra came to break the Bread of Life to us. He labored in our midst until July, 1956. Rev. James Jeffers came in June 1957 and worked with us until he accepted a call to Grangeville, Idaho in June 1961. We have since been very richly blessed through the work of Rev. Joseph Betten who spent time with us two winters, and Seminarians, Chris Spoor, Dick Kwantes and Arend Geisterfer. On Sept. 3, 1963 Rev. William Kooinga came to serve our church. He and his family moved here from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In remembering the services of those whom God has in His providence sent to us, we are also reminded of the very faithful guidance of our consistory members. The first consistory was composed of: Richard F. Ammerman, Wilbur Louters, Helmer Modderman, elders; William Kluver and Henry Negen, deacons. Those serving now are. Kone E. Brouwer, William Goeman, Conrad Tebben, elders, Ed Jansen, Wallace Kluver and Clayton Vreeman, deacons.

The first marriage in our church took place when Marlys Tebben became the bride of John Grimmius, June 19, 1958.

We have experienced many happy times but God has also reminded us of the brevity of life when He called two of our youthful members home to be with Him. Mrs. Mable (Bohlsen) Kluver succumbed to bulbar polio in September 1955 when she was 32 years old, leaving her husband, William and two small sons, James and Bruce. Minnie Mae Ammerman, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nan F. Ammerman, was instantly killed when a bit of wire thrown from a power mower she was using to mow our own church lawn, pierced her heart. She had just completed her sophomore year at the Clara City High School, May, 1961. Both Mabel and Minnie Mae were musicians and were faithful in playing for our church services.

In looking back on our few short years we must indeed exclaim, "Ebenezer, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." I Samuel 7:12.

We the members of the Clara City Christian Reformed Church thank God that He has brought us this far and we trust Him for the future.

HISTORY OF THE CLARA CITY LIBRARY

About 1924 approximately twenty local women women organized to form a Federated Women's Club. It continued as such for five or six years when it was turned into a study group, unaffiliated. It was about 1932 when the study plan was abandoned and the group became an afternoon social and sewing organization known as the Priscilla Club. This body gradually took on the character of a civic service organization. Because meetings had, from the beginning, been held in the various members' homes, membership was consequently limited in number.

The group's first continued service project was the promotion of an annual Santa Claus Day for the children of the community. Purchases of candy and nuts, filling the bags and their distribution, arranging for a Santa Claus, and providing free movie entertainment, all on an empty treasury, were involved in this project. However, the Booster or Commercial Club always lent generous financial help. One year when no male Santa seemed to be available, one of the group's own members donned Santa's suit, mounted the horse-drawn sleigh, and took over his duties tho she later admitted that, albeit an enjoyable task, it was a more strenuous one than she had anticipated.

It was in 1937 that Mrs. W. D. Grashius proposed the idea of promoting a local public library. The Club members concurred and promptly set to work on this new project. Funds were raised, bit by bit, in various ways—small membership dues, sponsoring movies, promoting bake sales, card parties, silver teas, and holding an annual fall rummage sale which proved to be the best continued source of income. Later on, some revenue, too, derived from book fines, and rental books.

By October, 1937, the Priscilla Club, working in conjunction with the Village Council, had the library firmly launched. The initial books were acquired thru donations and, along with new books, many others were purchased at bargain rates from neighboring towns' gift shop rental shelves. Using such ways and means of acquiring books, it is rather difficult to maintain as high a standard as desired. However, the promoters thought they had done fairly well, considering circumstances, and when, a year or two later, they called in a State Library supervisor for advice and recommendations, and she ruthlessly culled out a sizeable proportion of their dearly-bought books as undesirables, it was to the Board members almost like losing a member of their own bodies. They knew—she didn't—at what price and for how many precious hours that library had been established! It was decided on that occasion, for the time being, to mix her judgment with their own to try to strike a happy medium, setting State Library standards as a goal toward which to aim. From time to time, many books have been discarded for standard's sake, and re-registrations made in order to keep up to date. Right from the first the local Boards have worked closely with the State Library officials and have attended conferences set up by the Library Association.

Along with individual book and financial donations thru the years, other gifts have been generously given by such organizations as the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Camp Fire Girls and Girl Scouts and the Clara City Booster and Commercial Club. This was particularly true at the time of the purchase of the first set of encylopedias in 1945. The Legion Auxiliary has, thru the years, donated a number of books and magazines, often as memorials to their deceased members.

A five member Library Board was set up. Two members of the Village Council were appointed as library Council contacts, and an annual grant of three hundred dollars was provided for library purposes. In 1946 this grant was raised to five hundred dollars annually.

A number of of possibilities regarding location of the library were explored. Finally space above the Clara City State Bank was rented for a nominal fee. The room was cleaned, painted, draperied, furnished and made as cheerful as possible by Club members. A fuel oil stove was purchased and a new linoleum rug was laid. Recognizing the need for a sign to hang above the door, the Board arranged to purchase one from an itinerant sign painter who promised to deliver a florescent one. When it was finished and paid for, and didn't glow as promised, it occasioned much mirth among the Club members. Books and magazine racks were purchased as needed.

Thru the years there has been quite a parade of librarians. Mrs. Royal Armstrong served as the first, followed in only a few months by Hazel Stutelberg. In Sept. 1940, Mrs. Elsie Mohr took over the duties, resigning in 1949. Mrs. Henry Priebe then served until 1952. For a period of several months, the Board members themselves served turn-about until in 1953 Katherine Thein became librarian. In 1955 she was followed by Mrs. Arnie Weflen. In 1958 Mrs. Gordon Fischer was appointed and in 1959 Mrs. Dean Shaw became librarian to serve until 1961 when Mrs. Henry Fikke, present librarian, was appointed to serve under County Library supervision.

The minutes of the earlier meetings are filled with little matters of economy in order to derive the greatest benefit from each dollar spent. A budget of monthly expense was set up and closely adhered to. A report submitted at the 1940 July Board meeting gave the averge monthly expenses as follows: books $11.92, Rent $5, Librarian salary $7.50, Light $1.16, Fuel $.55, Insurance $.38, for a total monthly expense of $26.21. During the war years, 1942-1943, application for fuel oil had to be made for the required amount in advance. During these years, too, the Library Board cooperated with Victory Aides and USO in collecting and shipping books to Army and Navy Camps.

The librarian's salary was increased from time to time as circumstances permitted — in 1941 to $10, in 1943 to $15, in 1949 to $20, in 1956 to $22. Recently it was advanced to $60 and is presently $75. Library hours were only eight per week, later increased to ten, and are presently fifteen per week.

By 1949 the library had outgrown its quarters and an effort was begun to acquire additional space. A search was made for larger quarters in a street-level location, exploring even the possibility of building a new library. It was not until 1952 that it was decided to rent the former Gamble Store space in the Stager building when the Council agreed to pay the fifty dollar monthly rent and the heating expense, at the same time, reducing the annual grant to four hundred dollars. Once again the Club members busied themselves with cleaning, decorating, hanging draperies, collecting furniture, and then lifting the library bodily across Main Street to its new location. A new reading table purchased for twenty-five dollars was added along with several new bookcases and a magazine rack.

Arrangements had for several years been made whereby periodic shipments of State Library books had been received to supplement our own supply of books, each lot being retained for six months before being returned for a new lot. This was free service except for payment of mailing charges. For several years, too, "Library Week" has been observed annually with an "Open House" at the libray, sponsored by the Prinscilla Club. And each Christmas season the Board members have set up a gaily lighted tree to cheer and attract readers.

In 1959 work was begun under the direction of State Library officials to promote the organization of a County (or multi-county) Library system with our own library a part of that system. There were innumerable meetings, too, to attend. In 1960, the goal was achieved and the changeover from village to county library with bookmobile service was completed.

In 1961 the first annual spring pre-school children's hour was held in the library one afternoon each week for four consecutive weeks. It has become increasingly popular and will undoubtedly remain an established practice.

In early 1963 it was deemed advisable to cut the number of board members to three instead of the previous five—two being elective (or appointive), the third by virtue of having been elected Club president.

With the Clara City Public Library successfully operating under this greatly expanded service, those who have labored thru the years toward this end find it a source of much satisfaction.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 485

History of the American Legion Post 485 of the American Legion:

Post 485 of Clara City was chartered in the year 1922 and the charter members are as follows: John A. Stutelberg, Frank W. Stutelberg, Alfred D. Erickson, Jacob Bush, E. G. Weflen, Grover Bristle, Frank P. O'Brien, Carl Stegeman, V. B. Kinsmen, Otto Kuntz, Louis J. Tammen, Herman C. Steffens, George Kleene, Ulfert Emmens, Wm. J. Condon, Fred A. Wilkins, Albert H. Tholen, Anton Risch, Leslie L. Code, and Claus Lepler.

During the early years of the Post, meetings were held at various places in the community and surrounding area such as: The Town Hall, Top rooms of the Clara City State Bank, bank basement, local restaurants, elevator office, and on the farm of Aeise J. Koenen or wherever space was available. Despite the inconveniences and hardships endured by the Post in its early years several dedicated members did much to further the programs of the American Legion and to support its growth. In addition to their many community projects the founders and early members of Post 485, through much hard work and effort saw the beginning of the Veterans Rehabilitation Program, the Veterans Hospitals and aid to widow and dependents of deceased or disabled Veterans.

Following World War II a rise in membership and enthusiasm was enjoyed by the Post due to the return of many World War II veterans. In 1948 the basement of the Wulling Drug store building was rented and remodeled for the purpose of meeting and club rooms for the Post. In the ensuing years due to the constant rise in membership the Post supported to the fullest degree the American Legion Programs and contributed much to community service through such programs as: Recreation program, Junior Legion Baseball, School Safety Patrol School at Legionville, Boys State, Boy Scouts, Christmas Gift to a boy at the Red Wing Training School. One of the more important and impressive services rendered, is the Memorial Day Service held each Memorial Day to honor all our deceased, especially our war dead. These programs and several others are annual projects which the Post has undertaken. In addition to these programs, the Post has contributed to the improvement of Park facilities, to the support of the Clara City Band, and to many other community programs and improvements.

It was during this period that Post 485 formed a Drill Squad and Color Guard for the purpose of conducting and assisting at Military Funeral Services and to participate in and perform in patriotic programs and activities and to gain recognition for our local Post by participating in parades and other events in this area.

In 1958 the Post purchased the office and storage facilities of the Wachtler Lumber Co. for the purpose of new meeting and club rooms. In the fall of the same year the remodeling of this building was completed and from that time to the present this building has served as the home of Post 485. During the month of May 1963 a complete remodeling job was started on the Post club room. This project was completed in October of the same year and the Post is now enjoying these modern facilities. The Grand Opening of the Post club room was held on Nov. 20, 1963 with members of the Post and the Auxiliary Unit and their wives and husbands in attendance.

Throughout the entire life of Post 485 many personal and specific services have been rendered to disabled and needy members and citizens of the community. The following members have had the honor and privilege of serving as Commander of Post 485 during its existence:

1922—John A. Stutelberg
1923—E. G. Weflen
1924—H. C. Steffens
1925—V. B. Kinsman
1926—Frank Stutelberg
1927—Robert A. Merrill
1928—Albert H. Tholen
1929—Louis J. Tammen
1930—H. C. Steffens
1931—George Wolff
1932—John A. Stutelberg
1933—Al Yaekel
1934—H. B. Wolff
1935—E. G. Weflen
1936—E. G. Weflen
1937—H. B. Wolff
1938—Louis J. Tammen
1939—G. A. Wolff
1940—Earl Brown
1944—H. C. Steffens
1945—H. C. Steffens
1946—Phillip Stager
1947—Popkeejes Freese
1948—Dick Johnson
1949—Lawrence Grussing
1950—Arnold Weflen
1951—Virgil Henning
1952—Carl Heins
1953—Jerry Gullickson
1954—Jerry Gullickson
1955—Howard Popp
1956—John E. Asche
1957—Fred Hintz and Merle Weflen
1958—Ted Coleman
1959—Ted Coleman
1960—Fred Freisleben
1961—Fred Freisleben
1962—Harvey Jenssen
1963—Bradley Jorgens
1964—Robert Brix

Legion Drill Squad

Besides these privileged men, Post 485 has the distinct honor of having two members serve as 7th District Commanders, John A. Stutelberg and Robert Cudd.

Post 485 has a proud and honorable record and it is the sincere desire of its members that this record will continue to grow in the years to come or as long as there is a post in Clara City.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

In the fall of 1922 a meeting of eligibles was held for the purpose of forming an Organization but until 1928-1929 the Unit was inactive. The records of the Unit at that time were not too complete but below are listed the officers and members at that time: President, Mrs. Peter DeGrote; Secretary, Mrs. H. C. Steffens; Treasurer, Mrs. R. A. Merrill; Sgt.-at-Arms, Mrs. Geo. Wolff, and Chaplain, Mrs. J. B. Stager.

Ladies Drill Team

Other members were, Mrs. C. J. Larson, Mrs. Giffen, Mrs. Stegeman, Mrs. E. G. Weflen, Mrs. John Swanson, Miss Dena Doesken, Mrs. L. J. Tammen, Mrs. P. P. Thein, Mrs. (Geo. Kleene) Condon, Miss Lena Tholen and Miss Carolyn Jaenisch. They were then inactive until 1933 when they re-organized. Of the original Charter Members, Mrs. Peter DeGrote, Mrs. L. J. Tammen, Mrs. E. G. Weflen, and Mrs. Grace Condon are still active members of the Unit. Listed below are some of the projects the original unit started which are still done today: Bought and sold poppies which are purchased from the Poppy Work Shop, gave books to the Library, sponsor the American Essay and Poppy Contest in the two schools, have a Layette on hand at all times, give Christmas Baskets to the needy, send a girl to St. Paul each year to participate in Girl's State activities where they learn about the Government, with all expenses paid by the Unit.

In order to raise money in the early years quilts were made and raffled, towels were made and sold, jams and jellies made and sold, put on plays, gave Bean Feeds and Bake Sales and many other things in order to make money to send things to the Veterans. They also made Utility bags, Red Cross Soldier Kits, Bed Coats, pillow covers for wheel chairs, gave "God Bless America" plaques to the schools, and purchased a secondhand wheel chair which they cleaned and varnished and gave to an invalid lady in Clara City for Christmas.

At the present time we have 81 members and we serve lunch at the Spring and Fall Variety Supply Convention in order to raise money for the Unit.

We have helped the Legion remodel and furnish their Club Rooms, participate in the Memorial Day Services for the deceased veterans, give a monthly party for the Veterans of the State Hospital in Willmar, and give Christmas presents to them, have the teachers and men teacher's wives, Girl Stater and her mother at our meeting, have formed a Ladies Drill Team, we also sponsor the Girl Scouts, and help with the Kiddie Parade and send money and gifts to the Gift Shop, Sauk Centre Home for Girls, Friends of the Chapel, Forgotten Children's Fund, U.S.O., Dollar Bill Shower for Hospitalized Veterans, Christmas Seal Bond, Multiple Sclerosis, Minnesota Fund for Veterans, Heart Association, Radio Free Europe, Camp Courage, Legionville, Hospitalized Veteran's fund plus other projects for the veterans.

The present officers of the Unit are: President, June Swanson; 1st Vice President, Margaret Thoma; 2nd Vice President, Laura Warrings; Secretary, Shirley Barney; Treasurer, Evelyn Ostendorf; Chaplain, Irene Wolff, and Sgt.-at-Arms, Ann Knoop.

Many citations have been won by the Unit over the years for the fine work they have done and we hope to continue the work we are doing to help our Community and to the Hospitalized Veterans who made our Organization possible.

CLARA CITY LIONS CLUB

The Clara City Lions Club was chartered on September 9, 1946 with 36 members. Mr. W. D. Grashuis was the first president and Mr. Francis Schulte was the secretary-treasurer. We are indeed happy to have fourteen charter members as active Lions in our club's total membership of 73 in October, 1963 and Mr. Art Woolstencroft as president. The Membership Development and Retention program is very important and is stressed very strongly at all times. October is the New Membership month.

The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank was established in 1960 as a new project for the Lions of District 5M south of the Canadian border. The function of the Eye Bank is to conduct a program of public relations and education to promote the signing of releases of eyes by the next-of-kin of deceased persons. We also continue to raise and donate funds for the perpetuation of the Eye Bank. A great need is to build up a donor file of signed cards.

The following are some of our projects of which several have become annual affairs:

Sale of light bulbs, brooms, Christmas trees
Variety Shows
Slave Sale of Lions
While Elephant Sale
Assist needy families in the purchase of eye glasses
Collect used eye glasses for the needy in other countries
A Camp Courage Donation is for the annual assistance to crippled children to enjoy their camping program near Maple Lake, Minnesota.

We have sponsored our local Clara City Cub Scouts of 45 boys for several years. This is indeed a real pleasure to offer assistance in our own community.

4-H CLUB

The 4-H way has become a good way for many children. The 4-H's stand for head, heart, hands and health. Rheiderland had one of the first clubs in the area with the late Mrs. Nan G. (Trena) Ammerman and Mrs. Fred M. Aeikens as the leaders. Mrs. Aeikens served as a leader for 15 years. The first club, Rheiderland Winners, lived up to its name and won many State Fair trips and trips to the National Livestock Show. They always exhibited at the County Fair and had the County Trophy. The present Club is the Atomic Club with the leaders being Mrs. Wm. G. Ammerman, Mrs. Ben Davids and Mrs. Egbert Fokken.

Lone Tree has a very active club, the Lone Tree Eagles. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gunter have been leaders for 17 years and won a trip last March to Washington, D.C. to the 4-H Forum. Clarice Gunter won a trip to Mississippi as an exchange 4-H student for a month.

Woods township 4-H clubs are affiliated with the Kandiyohi County group and show at their Fair.

The Crate Clovers Club is led by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hinrichs and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rosendahl. This is their second year and they won a blue ribbon on their window display for 4-H week.

The Chippewa Champs in Stoneham township are an older club. One of their members, Gary Schaller, is with the Peace Corps in Nepal showing them the 4-H way. Diane Christianson won the Radio Speaking Contest in the County in 1963. The present leaders are Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Wahlstrom and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Coulter. In 1962 the Kitchen Band won the "Share the Fun" prize and went to Fergus Falls to perform.

HOMEMAKERS CLUBS

In the fall of 1946 two ladies from Rheiderland township, Mrs. Henry Bohlsen and Mrs. Fred M. Aeikens and Mrs. Art Lindner of Lone Tree township met with three ladies from Montevideo and organized the Homemakers of Chippewa County. The first lesson in 1947 was on remodeling kitchens and was held in the library of the Montevideo Public School. Many lessons have since been held, the first in 1963 was on salad making.

There are today, 1963, 61 clubs in the county with more than 800 members. 17 councilors, one from each township having clubs, meet 6 times a year with the Home Agent, Miss Adela Rydberg at present, at the councilor's home to choose the lessons to be given. There are usually four leader training lessons and a number of open lessons. The councilors also plan the tours, arrange for Achievement Day, the Tea in May, the County Fair booth and their Christmas Party. The tours are one of the highlights of the year, held in June or October. This year 7 bus loads toured Sister Kenny Rehabilitation Center which the group has sponsored more or less since its beginning, Land O'Lakes where they were given dinner, Pillsbury's Kitchens where they were lunched, and Backman's Floral Co. where each lady was presented a rose. The Homemakers have toured many places in the Twin Cities, St. Cloud, Fargo, Sioux Falls and Faribault.

The Homemakers Clubs in our area are: Rheiderland, Mrs. Robert Ammerman councilor, Busy Dozen; Lone Tree, Mrs. Leo Thissen councilor, Busy Mixers and Happy Circle; Woods, Mrs. Cornelius Molenaar councilor, Happy Hustlers, Learn and Do, and Woods Homebuilders; Louriston, Mrs. John F. Asche councilor, Merry Cooks and Sunbeam; Stoneham, Mrs. Roy Roseth councilor, Do Chat and Chew, Kitchen Queens, See and Do; Crate, Mrs. Herman Boike councilor, Crate Center, Happy Hour Homemakers, Ten Pin Club; Clara City, Mrs. Kasjen Klinghagen councilor, Happy Huddle Homemakers, Jolly Jets, Honeymooners and the 39ers.

PRISCILLA CLUB CIVIC PROJECT

Perhaps the civic activities of the Priscilla Club, as a contribution to the welfare of the Clara City Community, do merit space in this historical volume, as the compiler suggests.

The first five years of the Club's life are shrouded in obscurity. It was organized in (about) 1924 as a State Federated Woman's Club with approximately twenty members. The 1929-1930 printed program lists the following members: Mrs. J. K. Bailey Mrs. C. Burges, Mrs. M. S. Carl, Mrs. Peter DeGrote, Mrs. H. T. Foshager, Mrs. W. D. Grashuis, Mrs. Dan C. Jaenisch, Mrs. Henry Koester, Mrs. R. A. Merrill, Mrs. George Schulte, Mrs. M. F. Smith, Mrs. John Stager, Jr., Mrs. H. C. Steffens, Mrs. Frank Stutelberg, Mrs. L. J. Tammen, Mrs. Walter Thein, Mrs. A. Veenstra, Mrs. Carl Veenstra, Mrs. George Wolff, Mrs. J. H. Yock. These, however, are not necessarily all charter members. The officers that year were: President: Mrs. Walter Thein, Vice President: Mrs. M. S. Carl, Secretary: Mrs. R. A. Merrill, Treasurer: Mrs. Dan Jaenisch.

Books and study seems to have been the earliest motivation and, when that interest diminished, membership dwindled until, for a time, it became, more or less, just another "stitch and chatter" club. Gradually, however, it reached out for projects to benefit the community. Two endeavors stand out as "firsts" in this respect: namely: the promotion of the annual Santa Claus Day in mid-December, and the annual Red Cross fund drive. Both date back to sometime during the first five years. The Santa Claus effort has consistently, thru the years, been encouraged and largely financed by the Men's Booster or Commercial Club. The local Red Cross Chairman was for many years one of the Club's more active members, Mrs. R. A. Merrill, and has ever since her resignation, for the past fourteen years, been another active member, Mrs. E. A. Swanson. Club members have cooperated in organizing the annual drives, mapping out individual sections of the village with teams of members do-

Front row: Mrs. Bursack, Mrs. Veenstra, Mrs. Carl, Bessie Meyring, Marian Jacobs. Middle row: Teacher, Mrs. Leipold, Mrs. Arne, Emma Priebe, Alma Fleuter, Teacher, Mrs. Stager, Mrs. Popke. Back row: Teacher, Teacher, Lena Tholen, Teacher.

ing the collecting. The Club, too, since the beginning, has worked closely with the Red Cross Bloodmobile.

In 1937 the biggest project of all was initiated, namely: the starting, building up, and maintaining a public library, as is chronicled in other pages of this book. In this effort financial help was given by the Village Council.

For many years, the Club promoted a skating rink during the winter months and provided supervision of same. When the Village Recreation Committee was organized to plan and supervise youth sports and entertainment, two Club members were selected to serve on that Committee which consisted of representative members from all the various organizations in Clara City, such as The American Legion and its Auxiliary, Lions Club, Commercial Club, etc. Two Priscilla Club members continue to serve on that Committee.

In 1950, at the initiation of the annual Soy Bean Days celebration, the Club was requested to take charge of the Queen activities—organizing the contest, securing judges, providing hospitality for the local candidates and the visiting queens, making banquet arrangements, etc.

When the United Fund Drive Committee was recently organized, the Club responded to the request to send representatives to serve on that Committee, as they still do.

This past summer the Club President, Mrs. E. C. Linden, served on the 75th Jubilee Planning Committee. Other members were also active on Committees or in just plain helping along. In this connection a village beautification project was launched under the direction of Club Immediate-Past President, Mrs. C. A. Fostrom. Other women's organizations—Homemaker's Clubs, Girl Scouts and their leaders, etc.—were invited to assist in planting flowers, specializing in petunias, in all available plots and caring for them through the summer. Sidewalk receptacles were planted, and pots of petunias were set on light or telephone poles, three pots to each pole. Business men were asked to cooperate in this project financially and by planting window boxes wherever possible. Response from everyone was splendid and results were indeed gratifying. This, too, holds promise of becoming another continuing project.

EIBE THOLEN PIONEER FAMILY

In 1883 Eibe and Wilhelmina (Gerdes) Tholen immigrated from Germany to Golden, Illinois, where in 1888 they became American citizens. In 1892 they, together with their four children, emigrated from Golden to Clara City, Minnesota, where Mr. Tholen planned to pursue his carpenter trade. There was plenty of work to be had but the rented house in which they lived was soon sold and, unable to find another available, they decided to return to Golden.

Mr. and Mrs. Eibe Tholen

In 1895 they again moved to Clara City where they took up residence in a "land company" house a mile or so northwest of the townsite. The house still stands in Stoneham Township. Here Mr. Tholen plied his trade and in 1904 he built the Tholen family home in Clara City. The family consisted of three boys and one girl; viz, Claus, Eleanor, George and Albert. As the boys grew up they worked with their father who designed, contracted and built many of the older homes in Clara City. He also played an important role in building the first Immanuel Lutheran Church building. He and his family were among the earliest members of that congregation. He was a meticulous workman and, until the very end of his life in 1960, at age 102, he pointed with pride to the buildings he had constructed. He also retained a keen interest in every new construction project.

In 1958 which was both his own and his State's Centennial year, he was among one hundred forty pioneers, men and women of ninety years and over, who were given special recognition on Statehood Day, May 11, at the State Capitol. His own birthday on April 16 most nearly coincided of all those present with the State Centennial date. Each pioneer was awarded a Centennial Pioneer Certificate by Governor Freeman in a special ceremony in the Capitol rotunda. Clara City's popular quartette, the Cadettes, composed of LaDonna Clements, Barbara Lange, Ann Schjeldahl and Carol Frikke sang at this Statehood Day ceremony, and was called the Centennial Quartette. Mr. Tholen had previously been honored on his Centennial date with receptions at home, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, by his fellow-townsmen in the Soy Bean Days parade and at the Chippewa County Minnesota Centennial Pageant in Montevideo.

Mrs. Tholen, frail in health for years, passed away in 1928, followed in death by Claus in 1943.

In 1937 Mr. Tholen remarried, his second wife being Hinrika Miller. She is now 97 years old, probably the eldest in our city since the death in September of Mrs. Enno Christians, our most recent centennarian.

Clara City is proud to be the home of many senior citizens who have had a hand in making our area what it is today. The couple who take the honors are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Peterson with Mr. and Mrs. Otto Peiper probably second in line, as eldest. Some others are Mrs. Seibe Hagemeyer, Mrs. A. E. Prekker, Mrs. Mike Klassen, Mrs. Alice Donner, Mrs. Angelus Heins, Mrs. Tebbe Deikman, Jetta Behrends, Mrs. John Roskens, Ben Doesken and his sisters, Mrs. Susie Bauman and Mrs. Dena Behrends.

As we paused to celebrate 75 years of taming the virgin soil, we wish that those who came here first might see what has come of their pioneering. May those who follow continue in the same spirit and reap the same rewards:

Here is how we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Clara City Community!

Many business places had their display windows full of mementoes of the past for a couple weeks ahead of the celebration. Monday, July 8, saw the arrival of the Al Brown Carnival. That evening there was a Teen-agers Sock Hop at the public school with "The Defiants" playing and Hal Murray the popular KDWB Disc Jockey as MC. Steve Henslin and DeWayne Smith play with "The Defiants." Downtown from 9 to midnite the business places put on a special sale, the Diamond Jubilee Midnite Madness with clerks either in nighttime or Jubilee attire.

The Kiddie Parade at 7 p.m. was the big event on Tuesday, followed by a big stage show at the local ball park.

Wednesday all business closed at 2 so that everyone might participate in the activities. The Pioneer

—Photo Courtesy of Clara City Herald

Clara City Herald Office

Show in the afternoon included the judging of Beards and the Old Fashioned Dress Contest. Films of the 50th Anniversary taken by the Koch family and presented to Clara City by Mrs. Florence H. Koch were shown in the DeGrote Building several times.

The Alumni of the Clara City Public School met in a social way from 3 until the smorgasgord started at 5.

The Big Parade began at 7:30 at Emil Kluver's corner and continued to the school to disband. Three loudspeaker units helped give information along the route. It was estimated that over 8000 people viewed it. And what a splendid climax for the celebration!

A Jubilee Square Dance Exhibition was put on by the local teen-agers and school children coached by Cliff and Carrie Summerfield. The Queen coronation took place at the local ball park with Jean Meyer being crowned by Sandra Tammen. Kathie Koenen and Jana Gunter were the Princesses. A gigantic fireworks display climaxed the evening and brought to a close Clara City's Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

Fifty years ago there was a Business Men's Club which took charge of the Silver Anniversary of Clara City. From time to time since then there have been various such organizations which evidently served their purpose for a time and then died out. The present Clara City Civic and Commerce Club was activated about five years ago and we must give them due credit for the many community events they have fostered which we enjoy year after year. Soy Bean Days originated back in 1950 when the bean was fairly new here. It started as sort of a bean promotion and recognition day with beans displayed and competing for prizes and speakers on the subject. The bean became common, but the celebration became an annual event to which we all look forward. This Diamond Jubilee Celebration proved to be a complete success. They even enlisted the cooperation of the weather man! To Bob Cudd president, John Ridler Jr. vice president and Jim Brown secretary-treasurer and the business men members we give our sincere thanks for an unforgetable historical milestone celebration. It is this type of enthusiastic leadership from our business men that has advanced our community these 75 years to make it the thriving place it is today.

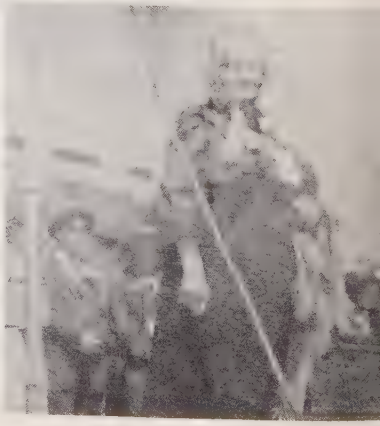
RESUME CONCLUSION

This has certainly been a Jubilee Year! The soybean harvest has been the best in years. The corn crop has been a bountiful one. The small grain crops were not so generous but the acreage is much less than in former years. The sugar beet harvest has been the largest that this area has ever known. The beet stockpile west of town is said to be the largest in the United States.

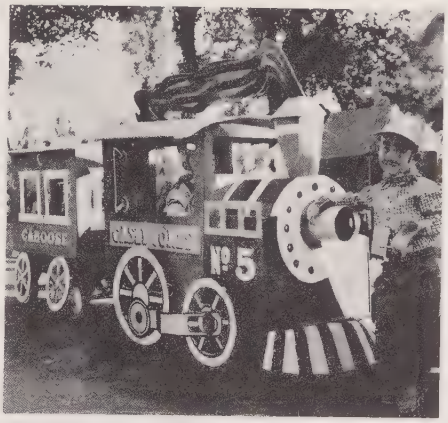
Lawns have been a beautiful carpet of green all summer and into the fall. I wonder how many years in the past, and in the future, lawn mowers were used and will be used to clip the grass as late as November 15th as was necessary this year! Rosebuds were picked November 16th and many garden annuals and perennials are still in bloom as we conclude our chapter. Yes, the good Lord has blessed our community and we should sing with the psalmist David, "We give thanks to Thee, O God; we give thanks!"

The Beard Club

JUBILEE DAYS



JUBILEE DAYS



ALUMNI GET-TOGETHER

Clara City Motel

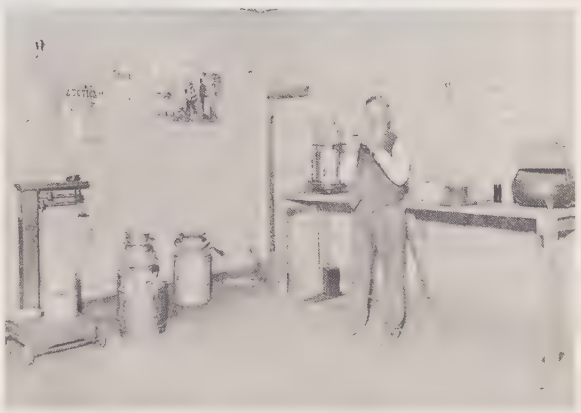
The Clara City Civic and Commerce Club wishes to thank the advertisers for their support in publication of this book.

The business of furnishing board and room started in the Swiers building in Clara City. It later became known as the Theiling Hotel. Then there was the Commercial Hotel. But as time changed other things, it also made inroads on this business. There came a time when there was no place to find a bed in town unless someone like Mrs. Dan Jaenisch had a room. Now motels have sprung up to furnish convenience to the motoring public. Clara City's newest is located south of town on Highway 7 at the junction with Highway 23. This newly constructed modern Clara City Motel was built by the owners, John and Hilda Caspers in the summer of 1959.

Heins Garage

The garage business that has developed into the present Heins garage was begun by Charles Schlagel and Elmer Foote in 1911. It was then located in the old building which has been replaced by the Tammen building in which Dick Wearda has his implement business now. In 1919 Adolph Otto bought out the interest of Elmer Foote who moved to Washington. This firm, Schlagel and Otto, continued in the present location until the spring of 1927 when it was sold to George Kleene and John Heins. That same fall, Siebolt Kleene took over his brother George's interest. In 1934 an addition was built to the original building that doubled its size. The old part of the building is used as shop and office and the new part for storage. The firm of Kleene and Heins was ended in the fall of 1940 by the death of Si Kleene from a heart attack. Since that time the business has been conducted by John Heins as Heins Garage.

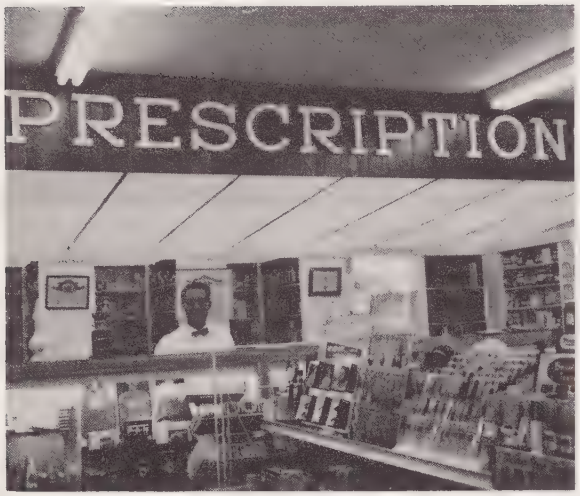
The first creamery in Clara City was located in what is now the Luke Condon home. In 1911 Lammert Gerdes bought the building and remodeled it for his home when he moved in from the farm.



Jacob Steffens in cream buying station

There were a number of cream buying stations which bought cream and shipped it by rail to other towns where there were creameries. The Farmers Co-Operative Creamery was organized in 1919 and is now the largest creamery in the county. The first Board of Directors were Henry Sechler, Pres.; Tom Gunter, Sec.; Otto Peiper, Treas,; Bert Scheltens, Fred Grussing, A. C. Rhode, Nick Marso. The present Board are Herbert Peiper, Pres.; Herman Tebben, Sec. and Treas.; Cordie Dannen, Vice Pres.; Egbert Andresen, Harm Duitsman, Arthur Deiken, Chester Wolff. Some of the earlier managers are not recorded, the last four are Mr. Tuman, Henry Koester, George Clements and Rance Slater. So far in 1962 the creamery has bought 15,996,669 lbs. of milk where as in the early days only cream was purchased. 774,506 lbs. of butter have been make up to press time in 1963.

Farmers Cooperative Creamery



Brix Drug Store

The Drug business started when Phil Henk came to Clara City to be the pharmacist for that department of the Clara City Mercantile Co. He is now living in Waverly, Minn. Mr. Charles Wulling also worked for Mercantile, for 15 years, before starting his own drug store. In 1933 he opened the first privately owned drug store in the village in the north corner of the DeGrote building. Another man who worked for Mercantile a while, Mr. Clair Whiting, opened his own store in the location where John Ertle's shoe shop now is, in the mid 40's. He became ill and his store was closed after a few years. The Wullings bought the corner diagonally across from their store and built a fine new building into which they moved their business in May, 1946. Mr. Wulling died Nov. 15, 1947. Mrs. Wulling carried on with the help of hired pharmacists until in April 1955 when she sold the business to Mr. Robert Brix. Bob did a major remodeling job on the store in 1960 so we now have as fine a drug store as you will see any place.

In 1891 two young sons, Emil and Julius Yock, of a Renville farmer decided that a store in Clara City would hold a good future for them. Their building was built between seeding and harvest time, where the present Gamble Store is located. After harvest the firm of Yock Brothers started operating. A few years later a wing was added to the west side of the building. The building and business was destroyed by the large Clara City fire in June 1909.

Emil Yock built the present Gamble building and Conrad Klinghagen and he operated the store as partners. Shortly after that Emil Yock traded the building and his share of the partnership with Jacob Steffens for the farm just north of Clara City, which the Yock family still owns. A couple of years later Emil Yock built the fifty-foot main section of the present Big V Store, and Julius Yock rejoined him in the firm of Yock Brothers again. After a time Julius Yock purchased a store in Wisconsin and Emil Yock continued the business.

Martin Weers became a partner and manager of the store then known as the Golden Rule. Mr. Weers later returned to operating his own store and Emil Yock continued this store, assisted by his sons, and it was then known as E. E. Yock and Sons. William J. Yock was manager until he decided to take up dentistry, then Gordon Yock managed the same until E. E. Yock sold out in 1930, and it again became Yock Brothers for the third time, with a sister Florence Bonde also a partner. She managed the dry goods department for many years.

Yocks Store, 1891

John Lepler, Jr. was a partner for a few years, Martin Meyer purchasing his interest in 1939.

The firm later became known as Yock and Meyer Department Store, during which time the former Knipp Blacksmith Shop area was added to the store.

Gordon Yock withdrew from being an active partner and Martin Meyer became the manager, assisted by Lowell Wolff, who became a partner shortly thereafter. A few years ago Martin Meyer withdrew as an active partner and Lowell Wolff has been the managing partner since. The name of the store was changed to "The Big V Department Store."

Big V Store

The Variety Supply Company was formed in 1936 and for the first three years operated as a Wagon Jobber, peddling notions to retail stores in this area. In 1939 the firm was bought out by six stores in this area and was established as a buying headquarters for them. The first years it operated out of the basement of the Yock and Meyer Department Store, Gordon Yock was the manager of the firm. Many additional stores were served by the firm and soon additional space was necessary. A 45x50 foot building was constructed just across the street from the store, which is the west portion of that present building. As additional space was required, additions were built.

One of the departments was foods, and in 1949 this department was made a separate corporation under the name of Variety Foods and was managed by Philip Stager. This firm erected the building south of the track. As that firm grew additional space was needed and it built a new warehouse east of town and the parent firm, Variety Supply Company, took over its building. The store building

German Catholic Church

Services for catholics in and around Clara City had been held previous to this time. Mass was offered in the house of Mr. Fred Abbes in the spring of 1889, by Father McEvay of Marshall. On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Parish, Mrs. Clara Koch recalled that she had helped to decorate the Altar for the first Catholic service at Clara Citl,—which was held at her home, some time before the Parish was incorporated.

The first Church was a small frame building, 37 by 30 feet in size. It served the purpose for a period of five years. In 1897, an additional 30 feet was added to this structure, at the cost of $1189.13.

Father Victor had served the parish in its incipient stages, 1890 to 1894. He was succeeded by Father Jaeger, also of Marshall, 1894 to 1898. Father Buckler became the first resident Pastor in 1898.

At first, Father Buckler's residence was a small one-room annex next to the Church. He drew up plans for, and constructed a new parish house. The cost was in the neighborhood of $1600.00. This frame building still stands today. Though remodeled from time to time, it well preserves its original appearance and still serves as the Pastor's residence.

Father Buckler stayed but little more than a year. From the time of his departure, October 4, 1899, until July 1901, Father Kerze, Father Hampesh and Father A. J. Heuvel remained only a short time each and successively.

The pastorate of Father Ignatius Schumacher began in July of 1901, and came to a close on September 15, 1917. The new Pastor of 1901 found that the Parish had grown to 65 families, numbering about 275 souls. His first project was the construction of a new Church of the Sacred Heart at Raymond, Minnesota, which he then served as a Mission. The Sacred Heart Parish remained a Mission of St. Clara's until 1931. Both the parishes of St. Clara and Sacred Heart progressed steadily during the fourteen-year-pastorate of Father Schumacher. Much talk there was toward the end of his pastorate of a parochial school for the parish. The plans were to be realized by his successor, as Father Schumacher was transferred to St. Raphael's of Springfield in 1917.

The next Pastor, Father Andrew Koller, found a parish of ninety families, with one hundred and fifteen children of school age at St. Clara's. His first concern was the new school. At the annual meeting January 11, 1918, the board of directors consisting of Father Andrew Koller, Fred Freese, Secretary; Philip Henk, Treasurer; John Thissen, Joseph Horney, Fred Harguth, Frank Habstritt, Xavier Suter and Eugene Thein, decided to erect a parochial school. The public school building, erected in 1894, was bought by the Parish, moved across the street and remodeled. The building provided the Sisters' department, the Boarders' department, and the School. Work began in February 1918, with the men of the parish doing the excavating and foundation work. The School was dedicated on Sunday, September the first, 1918, in the presence of a large assembly. Father Anton Scholzen,

First St. Clara School

then of St. Mary's, Bird Island, delivered the address.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Mankato Province staffed the School. The first Sisters in charge were: Sister M. Andrina, Sister M. Claude, Sister M. Gregor, Sister M. Martha, and two candidates, Sister Emma and Sister Catherine.

The School opened on September 9, 1918, with an enrollment of 62 pupils. The children coming from a distance were given opportunity to board. There were as many as fifty-two boarders at one time in the original St. Clara School building.

The first graduates of St. Clara School were: Arthur Benson, Norbert Cord, Leonard Hirman, Peter Schuman and Mary Suter.

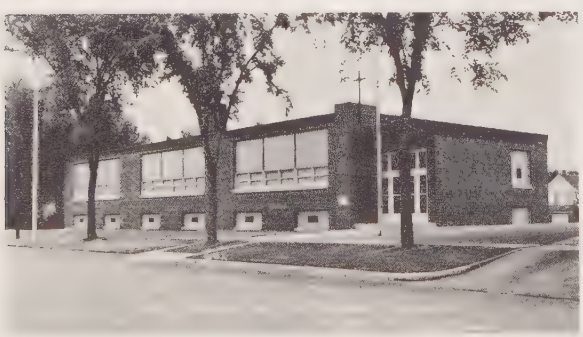
The next project of major concern for Father Koller was the building of a new Church. The first Building had outlived its usefulness and lacked the necessary capacity. At the special meeting of the Pastor and Trustees, the vote was in favor of a new Church. Present at the meeting were: Father Andrew J. Koller, Pastor; Mr. G. N. Schulte, treasurer; Mr. Xavier Suter, secretary, Mr. F. M. Condon, Mr. A. C. Rhode, Mr. Wenzel Schoen, Mr. T. J. Gunter, Mr. John Thissen, Mr. Peter P. Thein and Mr. Joseph Horney. The cost of the Church, of brick construction, and of the furnishings was about sixty thousand dollars. The cornerstone was laid on March 24, 1928. The Church Dedication ceremonies were held on October 9, 1929.

In August of 1931, Father Joseph P. Dohmen became Pastor of the Parish,—now struggling with a debt in the midst of the famous depression. He was in poor health, and finally took a leave of absence for this reason. During his absence and until his death,—January to July of 1934,—Father Joseph Ettel was administrator of the Parish. Father Joseph A. Kern was appointed to succeed him. He was Pastor until December of 1936.

Father Kern was succeeded by Father Karl Wohlfahrt, 1936 to 1944. During these last two pastorates, the country was again enjoying days of prosperity. Under Father Wohlfahrt, the Parish became deft-free, for the first time in fifteen years. The second World War was now in progress, and many of the young men were called to active military service.

Father Nicholas Gillen came in 1944. Several repainting and repair jobs put off by the previous Pastor in the effort to clear the parish of debt, were now performed. The Church and Parish house were repainted and redecorated. The School, now a frame building over sixty years of age, called for attention. Plans were drawn up for the construction of a new building. These plans never materialized. Father Gillen was transferred to the Parish at New Trier in 1951.

Father Harold Hesse took up the project of the new school building on his arrival. The present five-classroom structure, with auditorium, washrooms and storage facilities was provided for the sum of $85,000.00 The new building was dedicated on October 24, 1953. St. Clara's was deft-free and in good physical condition when Father Hesse was transferred to St. Mary's of New Ulm, on February 1, 1962. He was succeeded by Father Michael Guetter on that date.



Present building of St. Clara School

Present St. Clara Catholic Church

St. Clara's now has a membership of about 600, made up by 145 families, and notes an annual increase as the years pass on. The school now has an enrollment of 137 pupils. It is presently (1963-1964) staffed by three School Sisters of Notre Dame, and one lay teacher. These Sisters are: Sister M. Philomena, Principal, Sister M. Bernard Ann, Sister M. Albert, and Miss Mary Geurts. The boarding department has been discontinued now for about fifteen years.

Several long-established parish societies have been active during the greater part of the parish history. They sponsor parish activities and in varied ways help meet the needs of the parish.

The oldest of these societies is the St. Anthony Society, a unit of the Catholic Aid Association of Minnesota. Its charter members in 1898 were Jacob Schuman, Henry Straus and Eugene Thein. The following year, Fred Freese, Mathias Dondelinger, Mathias Straus, Matt Thom, Wenzel Freisleben, John E. Schulte, Peter P. Thein, Eugene Schaack and John Freisleben became members. Their membership at present is 118.

The local K.C. Club, a branch of the Montevideo Council, works jointly with the St. Anthony Society in parish activities.

The most-recently established (1962) organization for both men and women, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, provides religious instruction for the boys and girls attending public schools.

The St. Clara Society, as also the Young Ladies Sodality is at present inactive.

The Christian Mothers' Confraternity enrolls the ladies of the parish. Their membership is well over 100. By its various subdivisions and helper groups, it very efficiently answers to the needs of the parish,—spiritually, socially and financially. The Confraternity is affiliated with the National, as also the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the years 1887 and 1888 several German Lutherans coming from the states of Iowa and Illinois settled in the vicinity of Clara City. The land on these prairies offered many opportunities for their future temporal welfare but one thing was lacking. They had no spiritual leader of their faith. Through the efforts of one of the first settlers, Herman Zuelke, who had come here from Watertown, Wisconsin, Rev. G. Blessin was sent here to help organize the church in 1889.

The first congregation of 17 families consisted of the following charter members: Kasjen Hayunga,

G. Tunegel, B. A. Behrends, Behrend Beekman, Behrend Warrings, Herman Zuelke, Julius Spieker, Theodore Reinholt, Ed Barbknecht, Luitjen Bueke, August Warmbold, Lammert Kleene, Arnt Mueller, Wilhelm Bangs, George Behrends, Luecken Beekman, and Heinrich Kramer.

During the summer of 1889 a student pastor, Arnold Janssen, served the congregation and services were held in the elevator of the Dutch Land Company. The Reverend Schroeder was then called and he served as the first ordained pastor for one year.

The first church edifice, 13x36 was completed in 1890 and Rev. H. Hafermann became pastor and served two years. It was during his ministry that the congregation purchased two acres of ground for cemetery purpose.

Rev. Arnold Janssen took over the pastorate when Rev. H. Hafermann accepted a call to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Due to illness, Rev. Janssen was forced to resign after serving one-half year.

First Immanuel Lutheran Church

Rev. Martin Hafermann and family

Rev. Martin Hafermann, who had arrived from Germany in 1893 became the next pastor and served faithfully for 35 years. During his pastorate a parsonage was constructed and the original church building was enlarged and remodeled. After his death in 1929, the congregation was without a regular minister until the spring of 1930 when Rev. Paul J. Kumpf accepted the call to serve Immanuel congregation. During his pastorate the present edifice of brick was completed, the dedication of which took place in October, 1930. Pastor Kumpf served the congregation faithfully until 1948 when he accepted a call to Talmadge, Nebraska.

Rev. Lechner of Raymond conducted most of the services then until Rev. Norbert Augst came to the congregation in June 1949. The old parsonage was moved and a new one built in 1950. A Parish Hall was constructed in 1954.

Rev. Fred Mueller moved here to serve as pastor of the church when Rev. Augst accepted a call to West St. Paul in 1956. He served the congregation

Present Immanuel Lutheran Church and Parsonage

faithfully from then until May 1961 when he accepted an office with the Southwestern District of the American Lutheran Church in Willmar, Minn.

The present pastor, Rev. Arthur Nickel came to the congregation in June of 1961. During the year of 1961 a storage vault of polished granite was erected on the cemetery.

The membership of the congregation has increased from the original seventeen families to 400 families at the present time. The baptized membership of the congregation is 1,400. In 1964 Immanuel Church will observe its Diamond Jubilee.

The first Sunday School was conducted in the German language. When it was decided to use English they formally organized in 1918, with Rev. Hafermann as superintendent, Martin Weers was secretary. Some of the early teachers were Lena Tholen, Anna Fleuter, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stager. In 1927, when Rev. Hafermann passed away, Jack Stager became superintendent, and remained in that capacity until the 1950's. In 1960 we added a 6 member Parish-Education Committee. The Sunday School started with about 25 pupils.

The Lutheran Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1910, when Rev. Hafermann called a meeting of interested women. Ten responded and the Aid was organized. They were Mrs. Geerd Janssen, Mrs. Henry Klenke, Mrs. Gust Priebe, Mrs. August Leipold, Mrs. Eibe Tholen, Mrs. Jacob Steffens, Mrs. B. A. Behrends, Mrs. M. Hafermann, Mrs. Lammert Gerdes, and Mrs. Fred Broers, who was the first president. Mrs. Lammert Gerdes was vice-president and Mrs. M. Hafermann the secretary-treasurer.

This organization grew in numbers through the years until the membership was well over a hundred women. They served very capably, assisting the congregation by purchasing the pipe organ and other innumerable needs of the church edifice as well as doing much in the field of missions.

A Women's Missionary Society was also active in the mission work of the church. They and the Ladies Aid became the organization known as the L.C.W., Lutheran Church Women, in 1961.

The Luther Leagues, The Men's Brotherhood and the Fireside Club are also active organizations of the church.

BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH

Seventy-five years ago various Eastfriesian families made the journey from Iowa and other states to Rheiderland township. Eventually missionaries followed these settlers to their new homes. One of these missionaries was the Rev. J. Kolb, a Presbyterian minister who first visited Clara City in the summer of 1888. The settlers desire for a church was met on January 30, 1889, when a congregation was organized, taking on the name, The Rheiderland Presbyterian Church. Rev. Kolb supplied the new congregation as missionary until in April, 1890, when a call was sent to Mr. H. Sill, a Presbyterian seminary student.

First Bethany Reformed Church

During the years 1890-1899, certain misunderstanding arose between the St. Cloud Presbytery and the local congregation. This misunderstanding reached a climax when Pastor Sill moved under the jurisdiction of another Presbytery, and the congregation slipped quietly away from the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., into the Reformed Church in America. Now the congregation belonged to a Classis where all spoke their mother tongue. The official transition took place on November 21, 1899, at which time a new name, The Bethany Reformed Church of Clara City, was adopted.

1913 Bethany Church

Bethany Church Remodeled in 1941

Present Bethany Reformed Church 1955

In 1900, seven months after the transition, a minister of the Reformed Church, Rev. E. Aeilts, was ordained and installed in the Bethany Church.

The next pastor to serve the Bethany church was Rev. G. Veenker who was installed in September, 1904. After four years of service, a lingering illness forced him to resign.

For a year the pastorate was vacant unti September, 1910, when Rev. C. Bauer was installed. For seventeen years he was to lead the Bethany congregation. Two years after his installation a new church building was started and on May 18, 1913, was dedicated. In 1914 the Christian Endeavor composed of young people was organized, and five years later the Ladies Aid began with twenty charter members. In April, 1927, Rev. Bauer terminated his work at Bethany and moved to New York.

In July, 1927, Rev. M. Weeldryer and his family moved into a rented house which was serving for a short time as parsonage. Within five months they moved into a newly built parsonage, which was to be their home for the next twenty-six years. Those years too were to prove eventful. In 1940 the change in the use of languages posed a problem, but after some time the problem was worked out. Also during this period the church experienced quite rapid growth so that by 1949, 281 families were listed on the roll. To handle this growth the church was remodeled and October 23, 1941, was rededicated.

In 1953 Rev. Weeldryer accepted a call from The Trinity Reformed Church of Allison, Iowa. Consequently, a call was sent to Rev. Edward Jurgens, then pastor of the Wellsburg Reformed Church of Iowa, and on October 29 his installation took place.

The past ten years have been very active ones for the Bethany church and the Jurgens family. In 1955 a new church was built at the cost of $201,000, and in January the new sanctuary was dedicated. Later, in 1962, stained glass windows were installed. Also during the past ten years three new groups have been organized: the Brotherhood composed of the men of the congregation, the Mission Circle composed of the young married women, and the Girl's League. In 1959 a unit of support of Rev. Robert Block, missionary to Iraq, was taken on.

In the past seventy-four years six sons of the Bethany Reformed Church have become ministers of the gospel: David E. Davids, Andrew Meyer, Andres W. Andresen, Harvey Ammerman, S. W. Duitsman, and Roger Grussing. At present Stanley Hagemeyer is also attending seminary.

Seventy-five years after the founding of Clara City and seventy-four years after the founding of the first congregation, the Bethany Reformed Church has a membership of 310 families which includes 719 communicant members and 546 baptized non-communicant members.

DUTCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Dutch Presbyterian church grew out of an evangelistic campaign put on by the St. Cloud Presbytery through its Sunday School Missionary, Rev. Thomas Scotton and its minister at large, Rev. A. W. Wright. A Sunday School was organized in Sept. 1894 with Martin Bush as Superintendent. For some years it was sort of a union Sunday School and was a large one with 90 children enrolled. Among those first superintendents were Mr. Henry Schwitters, Mrs. Veenstra and Mrs. M. S. Carl. Mrs. Orlebeke was one of the leaders also. Mrs. Carl taught a class of the biggest boys and recalls Harold Burges, Raymond Ulferts, John Harms and the Hoogheem boys. When the Lutheran church opened their Sunday School the Lutheran children went to that.

Holland Reformed Church

Some time in the late 1890's the congregation that had developed became associated with the Reformed Church of America and became known as the Holland Reformed church. All the records seem to have been lost and most of the families moved away. In about 1930 a move was made to join with the Bethany Reformed Church which was now using the English language at least part of the time and this merger was effected in 1931. 37 years is not a long life for a church but it is recorded by Rev. Bauer, "It has done good work in our midst" and served for many as a place of worship using the English language, when they could not understand the Dutch and German used in other churches.

CLARA CITY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

The Clara City Christian Reformed Church is the youngest of the churches in our fair city. On June 10, 1951 a number of families of the Christian Reformed faith met for worship service in the gym of the local public school where they continued to meet throughout the summer. In September it became necessary to find another meeting place. It was then we moved to the room above the Clara City State Bank.

Our church was duly organized on November 6, 1951 in the neighboring church at Bunde with a total of twenty families from which three elders and two deacons were elected. The charter members were the following families, Nan F. Ammermans, Richard F. Ammermans, Art Bohlsens, John Bohlsens, Egbert K. Brouwers, Kone E. Brouwers, Wallace Kluvers, William Kluvers, Conrad C. Tebben Jr., John Van Houtens, Martin Wubbens, Albertus Zimmers, Egbert Zimmers, Helmer Nieubertas, Fred D. Ammermans, George D. Ammermans, Gerrit Haaglands, Wilbur Louters, Helmer Moddermans and the Henry H. Negens.

The first Ladies Aid meeting was held on November 14, 1951. Mrs. Wilbur Louters was elected president; Mrs. Conrad C. Tebben Jr. vice-pres.; Secretary, Mrs. William Kluver with Mrs. Nan F. Ammerman assistant; Treasurer, Mrs. Richard F. Ammerman with Mrs. Albertus Zimmer assistant; Custodian, Mrs. George Ammerman. The present officers are: President, Mrs. Clayton Vreeman, with Mrs. Catherine Muller as vice-president; Secretary, Mrs. Albertus Zimmer; Treasurer, Mrs. Martin Wubben; and Mrs. Bill Goeman as assistant Sec.-Treas.

Clara City Christian Reformed Church

On November 25, 1951 Rev. Viss of the Prinsburg church conducted the first baptism, that of Gloria Zimmer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albertus Zimmer.

The new congregation purchased a lot on the south end of town from Mrs. Dora Elberts, who is now a member of the congregation. She was the first child born to settlers in Rheiderland township. A vacated school house was purchased and moved to the basement which had been prepared. After many hours and days of faithful volunteer labor the school house was remodeled to double its size. It now serves as a very adequate and simple, yet attractive house of worship. On July 9, 1952 this building was dedicated to God as a House of Worship.

During the summer of 1951 Seminarian Paul Venstra, now pastor at Comstock Park, Michigan served our church. Various ministers of Classis Minnesota occupied our pulpit until Seminarian Kermit Reitma, now of Arcadia, Calif. spent the summer of 1952 with us. In September our first resident pastor, Rev. Martin Zylstra came to break the Bread of Life to us. He labored in our midst until July, 1956. Rev. James Jeffers came in June 1957 and worked with us until he accepted a call to Grangeville, Idaho in June 1961. We have since been very richly blessed through the work of Rev. Joseph Betten who spent time with us two winters, and Seminarians, Chris Spoor, Dick Kwantes and Arend Geisterfer. On Sept. 3, 1963 Rev. William Kooinga came to serve our church. He and his family moved here from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In remembering the services of those whom God has in His providence sent to us, we are also reminded of the very faithful guidance of our consistory members. The first consistory was composed of: Richard F. Ammerman, Wilbur Louters, Helmer Modderman, elders; William Kluver and Henry Negen, deacons. Those serving now are. Kone E. Brouwer, William Goeman, Conrad Tebben, elders, Ed Jansen, Wallace Kluver and Clayton Vreeman, deacons.

The first marriage in our church took place when Marlys Tebben became the bride of John Grimmius, June 19, 1958.

We have experienced many happy times but God has also reminded us of the brevity of life when He called two of our youthful members home to be with Him. Mrs. Mable (Bohlsen) Kluver succumbed to bulbar polio in September 1955 when she was 32 years old, leaving her husband, William and two small sons, James and Bruce. Minnie Mae Ammerman, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nan F. Ammerman, was instantly killed when a bit of wire thrown from a power mower she was using to mow our own church lawn, pierced her heart. She had just completed her sophomore year at the Clara City High School, May, 1961. Both Mabel and Minnie Mae were musicians and were faithful in playing for our church services.

In looking back on our few short years we must indeed exclaim, "Ebenezer, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." I Samuel 7:12.

We the members of the Clara City Christian Reformed Church thank God that He has brought us this far and we trust Him for the future.

HISTORY OF THE CLARA CITY LIBRARY

About 1924 approximately twenty local women women organized to form a Federated Women's Club. It continued as such for five or six years when it was turned into a study group, unaffiliated. It was about 1932 when the study plan was abandoned and the group became an afternoon social and sewing organization known as the Priscilla Club. This body gradually took on the character of a civic service organization. Because meetings had, from the beginning, been held in the various members' homes, membership was consequently limited in number.

The group's first continued service project was the promotion of an annual Santa Claus Day for the children of the community. Purchases of candy and nuts, filling the bags and their distribution, arranging for a Santa Claus, and providing free movie entertainment, all on an empty treasury, were involved in this project. However, the Booster or Commercial Club always lent generous financial help. One year when no male Santa seemed to be available, one of the group's own members donned Santa's suit, mounted the horse-drawn sleigh, and took over his duties tho she later admitted that, albeit an enjoyable task, it was a more strenuous one than she had anticipated.

It was in 1937 that Mrs. W. D. Grashius proposed the idea of promoting a local public library. The Club members concurred and promptly set to work on this new project. Funds were raised, bit by bit, in various ways—small membership dues, sponsoring movies, promoting bake sales, card parties, silver teas, and holding an annual fall rummage sale which proved to be the best continued source of income. Later on, some revenue, too, derived from book fines, and rental books.

By October, 1937, the Priscilla Club, working in conjunction with the Village Council, had the library firmly launched. The initial books were acquired thru donations and, along with new books, many others were purchased at bargain rates from neighboring towns' gift shop rental shelves. Using such ways and means of acquiring books, it is rather difficult to maintain as high a standard as desired. However, the promoters thought they had done fairly well, considering circumstances, and when, a year or two later, they called in a State Library supervisor for advice and recommendations, and she ruthlessly culled out a sizeable proportion of their dearly-bought books as undesirables, it was to the Board members almost like losing a member of their own bodies. They knew—she didn't—at what price and for how many precious hours that library had been established! It was decided on that occasion, for the time being, to mix her judgment with their own to try to strike a happy medium, setting State Library standards as a goal toward which to aim. From time to time, many books have been discarded for standard's sake, and re-registrations made in order to keep up to date. Right from the first the local Boards have worked closely with the State Library officials and have attended conferences set up by the Library Association.

Along with individual book and financial donations thru the years, other gifts have been generously given by such organizations as the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Camp Fire Girls and Girl Scouts and the Clara City Booster and Commercial Club. This was particularly true at the time of the purchase of the first set of encyclopedias in 1945. The Legion Auxiliary has, thru the years, donated a number of books and magazines, often as memorials to their deceased members.

A five member Library Board was set up. Two members of the Village Council were appointed as library Council contacts, and an annual grant of three hundred dollars was provided for library purposes. In 1946 this grant was raised to five hundred dollars annually.

A number of of possibilities regarding location of the library were explored. Finally space above the Clara City State Bank was rented for a nominal fee. The room was cleaned, painted, draperied, furnished and made as cheerful as possible by Club members. A fuel oil stove was purchased and a new linoleum rug was laid. Recognizing the need for a sign to hang above the door, the Board arranged to purchase one from an itinerant sign painter who promised to deliver a florescent one. When it was finished and paid for, and didn't glow as promised, it occasioned much mirth among the Club members. Books and magazine racks were purchased as needed.

Thru the years there has been quite a parade of librarians. Mrs. Royal Armstrong served as the first, followed in only a few months by Hazel Stutelberg. In Sept. 1940, Mrs. Elsie Mohr took over the duties, resigning in 1949. Mrs. Henry Priebe then served until 1952. For a period of several months, the Board members themselves served turn-about until in 1953 Katherine Thein became librarian. In 1955 she was followed by Mrs. Arnie Weflen. In 1958 Mrs. Gordon Fischer was appointed and in 1959 Mrs. Dean Shaw became librarian to serve until 1961 when Mrs. Henry Fikke, present librarian, was appointed to serve under County Library supervision.

The minutes of the earlier meetings are filled with little matters of economy in order to derive the greatest benefit from each dollar spent. A budget of monthly expense was set up and closely adhered to. A report submitted at the 1940 July Board meeting gave the averge monthly expenses as follows: books $11.92, Rent $5, Librarian salary $7.50, Light $1.16, Fuel $.55, Insurance $.38, for a total monthly expense of $26.21. During the war years, 1942-1943, application for fuel oil had to be made for the required amount in advance. During these years, too, the Library Board cooperated with Victory Aides and USO in collecting and shipping books to Army and Navy Camps.

The librarian's salary was increased from time to time as circumstances permitted — in 1941 to $10, in 1943 to $15, in 1949 to $20, in 1956 to $22. Recently it was advanced to $60 and is presently $75. Library hours were only eight per week, later increased to ten, and are presently fifteen per week.

By 1949 the library had outgrown its quarters and an effort was begun to acquire additional space. A search was made for larger quarters in a street-level location, exploring even the possibility of building a new library. It was not until 1952 that it was decided to rent the former Gamble Store space in the Stager building when the Council agreed to pay the fifty dollar monthly rent and the heating expense, at the same time, reducing the annual grant to four hundred dollars. Once again the Club members busied themselves with cleaning, decorating, hanging draperies, collecting furniture, and then lifting the library bodily across Main Street to its new location. A new reading table purchased for twenty-five dollars was added along with several new bookcases and a magazine rack.

Arrangements had for several years been made whereby periodic shipments of State Library books had been received to supplement our own supply of books, each lot being retained for six months before being returned for a new lot. This was free service except for payment of mailing charges. For several years, too, "Library Week" has been observed annually with an "Open House" at the libray, sponsored by the Prinscilla Club. And each Christmas season the Board members have set up a gaily lighted tree to cheer and attract readers.

In 1959 work was begun under the direction of State Library officials to promote the organization of a County (or multi-county) Library system with our own library a part of that system. There were innumerable meetings, too, to attend. In 1960, the goal was achieved and the changeover from village to county library with bookmobile service was completed.

In 1961 the first annual spring pre-school children's hour was held in the library one afternoon each week for four consecutive weeks. It has become increasingly popular and will undoubtedly remain an established practice.

In early 1963 it was deemed advisable to cut the number of board members to three instead of the previous five—two being elective (or appointive), the third by virtue of having been elected Club president.

With the Clara City Public Library successfully operating under this greatly expanded service, those who have labored thru the years toward this end find it a source of much satisfaction.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 485

History of the American Legion Post 485 of the American Legion:

Post 485 of Clara City was chartered in the year 1922 and the charter members are as follows: John A. Stutelberg, Frank W. Stutelberg, Alfred D. Erickson, Jacob Bush, E. G. Weflen, Grover Bristle, Frank P. O'Brien, Carl Stegeman, V. B. Kinsmen, Otto Kuntz, Louis J. Tammen, Herman C. Steffens, George Kleene, Ulfert Emmens, Wm. J. Condon, Fred A. Wilkins, Albert H. Tholen, Anton Risch, Leslie L. Code, and Claus Lepler.

During the early years of the Post, meetings were held at various places in the community and surrounding area such as: The Town Hall, Top rooms of the Clara City State Bank, bank basement, local restaurants, elevator office, and on the farm of Aeise J. Koenen or wherever space was available. Despite the inconveniences and hardships endured by the Post in its early years several dedicated members did much to further the programs of the American Legion and to support its growth. In addition to their many community projects the founders and early members of Post 485, through much hard work and effort saw the beginning of the Veterans Rehabilitation Program, the Veterans Hospitals and aid to widow and dependents of deceased or disabled Veterans.

Following World War II a rise in membership and enthusiasm was enjoyed by the Post due to the return of many World War II veterans. In 1948 the basement of the Wulling Drug store building was rented and remodeled for the purpose of meeting and club rooms for the Post. In the ensuing years due to the constant rise in membership the Post supported to the fullest degree the American Legion Programs and contributed much to community service through such programs as: Recreation program, Junior Legion Baseball, School Safety Patrol School at Legionville, Boys State, Boy Scouts, Christmas Gift to a boy at the Red Wing Training School. One of the more important and impressive services rendered, is the Memorial Day Service held each Memorial Day to honor all our deceased, especially our war dead. These programs and several others are annual projects which the Post has undertaken. In addition to these programs, the Post has contributed to the improvement of Park facilities, to the support of the Clara City Band, and to many other community programs and improvements.

It was during this period that Post 485 formed a Drill Squad and Color Guard for the purpose of conducting and assisting at Military Funeral Services and to participate in and perform in patriotic programs and activities and to gain recognition for our local Post by participating in parades and other events in this area.

In 1958 the Post purchased the office and storage facilities of the Wachtler Lumber Co. for the purpose of new meeting and club rooms. In the fall of the same year the remodeling of this building was completed and from that time to the present this building has served as the home of Post 485. During the month of May 1963 a complete remodeling job was started on the Post club room. This project was completed in October of the same year and the Post is now enjoying these modern facilities. The Grand Opening of the Post club room was held on Nov. 20, 1963 with members of the Post and the Auxiliary Unit and their wives and husbands in attendance.

Throughout the entire life of Post 485 many personal and specific services have been rendered to disabled and needy members and citizens of the community. The following members have had the honor and privilege of serving as Commander of Post 485 during its existence:

1922—John A. Stutelberg
1923—E. G. Weflen
1924—H. C. Steffens
1925—V. B. Kinsman
1926—Frank Stutelberg
1927—Robert A. Merrill
1928—Albert H. Tholen
1929—Louis J. Tammen
1930—H. C. Steffens
1931—George Wolff
1932—John A. Stutelberg
1933—Al Yaekel
1934—H. B. Wolff
1935—E. G. Weflen
1936—E. G. Weflen
1937—H. B. Wolff
1938—Louis J. Tammen
1939—G. A. Wolff
1940—Earl Brown
1944—H. C. Steffens
1945—H. C. Steffens
1946—Phillip Stager
1947—Popkeejes Freese
1948—Dick Johnson
1949—Lawrence Grussing
1950—Arnold Weflen
1951—Virgil Henning
1952—Carl Heins
1953—Jerry Gullickson
1954—Jerry Gullickson
1955—Howard Popp
1956—John E. Asche
1957—Fred Hintz and Merle Weflen
1958—Ted Coleman
1959—Ted Coleman
1960—Fred Freisleben
1961—Fred Freisleben
1962—Harvey Jenssen
1963—Bradley Jorgens
1964—Robert Brix

Legion Drill Squad

Besides these privileged men, Post 485 has the distinct honor of having two members serve as 7th District Commanders, John A. Stutelberg and Robert Cudd.

Post 485 has a proud and honorable record and it is the sincere desire of its members that this record will continue to grow in the years to come or as long as there is a post in Clara City.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

In the fall of 1922 a meeting of eligibles was held for the purpose of forming an Organization but until 1928-1929 the Unit was inactive. The records of the Unit at that time were not too complete but below are listed the officers and members at that time: President, Mrs. Peter DeGrote; Secretary, Mrs. H. C. Steffens; Treasurer, Mrs. R. A. Merrill; Sgt.-at-Arms, Mrs. Geo. Wolff, and Chaplain, Mrs. J. B. Stager.

Ladies Drill Team

Other members were, Mrs. C. J. Larson, Mrs. Giffen, Mrs. Stegeman, Mrs. E. G. Weflen, Mrs. John Swanson, Miss Dena Doesken, Mrs. L. J. Tammen, Mrs. P. P. Thein, Mrs. (Geo. Kleene) Condon, Miss Lena Tholen and Miss Carolyn Jaenisch. They were then inactive until 1933 when they re-organized. Of the original Charter Members, Mrs. Peter DeGrote, Mrs. L. J. Tammen, Mrs. E. G. Weflen, and Mrs. Grace Condon are still active members of the Unit. Listed below are some of the projects the original unit started which are still done today: Bought and sold poppies which are purchased from the Poppy Work Shop, gave books to the Library, sponsor the American Essay and Poppy Contest in the two schools, have a Layette on hand at all times, give Christmas Baskets to the needy, send a girl to St. Paul each year to participate in Girl's State activities where they learn about the Government, with all expenses paid by the Unit.

In order to raise money in the early years quilts were made and raffled, towels were made and sold, jams and jellies made and sold, put on plays, gave Bean Feeds and Bake Sales and many other things in order to make money to send things to the Veterans. They also made Utility bags, Red Cross Soldier Kits, Bed Coats, pillow covers for wheel chairs, gave "God Bless America" plaques to the schools, and purchased a secondhand wheel chair which they cleaned and varnished and gave to an invalid lady in Clara City for Christmas.

At the present time we have 81 members and we serve lunch at the Spring and Fall Variety Supply Convention in order to raise money for the Unit.

We have helped the Legion remodel and furnish their Club Rooms, participate in the Memorial Day Services for the deceased veterans, give a monthly party for the Veterans of the State Hospital in Willmar, and give Christmas presents to them, have the teachers and men teacher's wives, Girl Stater and her mother at our meeting, have formed a Ladies Drill Team, we also sponsor the Girl Scouts, and help with the Kiddie Parade and send money and gifts to the Gift Shop, Sauk Centre Home for Girls, Friends of the Chapel, Forgotten Children's Fund, U.S.O., Dollar Bill Shower for Hospitalized Veterans, Christmas Seal Bond, Multiple Sclerosis, Minnesota Fund for Veterans, Heart Association, Radio Free Europe, Camp Courage, Legionville, Hospitalized Veteran's fund plus other projects for the veterans.

The present officers of the Unit are: President, June Swanson; 1st Vice President, Margaret Thoma; 2nd Vice President, Laura Warrings; Secretary, Shirley Barney; Treasurer, Evelyn Ostendorf; Chaplain, Irene Wolff, and Sgt.-at-Arms, Ann Knoop.

Many citations have been won by the Unit over the years for the fine work they have done and we hope to continue the work we are doing to help our Community and to the Hospitalized Veterans who made our Organization possible.

CLARA CITY LIONS CLUB

The Clara City Lions Club was chartered on September 9, 1946 with 36 members. Mr. W. D. Grashuis was the first president and Mr. Francis Schulte was the secretary-treasurer. We are indeed happy to have fourteen charter members as active Lions in our club's total membership of 73 in October, 1963 and Mr. Art Woolstencroft as president. The Membership Development and Retention program is very important and is stressed very strongly at all times. October is the New Membership month.

The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank was established in 1960 as a new project for the Lions of District 5M south of the Canadian border. The function of the Eye Bank is to conduct a program of public relations and education to promote the signing of releases of eyes by the next-of-kin of deceased persons. We also continue to raise and donate funds for the perpetuation of the Eye Bank. A great need is to build up a donor file of signed cards.

The following are some of our projects of which several have become annual affairs:

Sale of light bulbs, brooms, Christmas trees
Variety Shows
Slave Sale of Lions
While Elephant Sale
Assist needy families in the purchase of eye glasses
Collect used eye glasses for the needy in other countries

A Camp Courage Donation is for the annual assistance to crippled children to enjoy their camping program near Maple Lake, Minnesota.

We have sponsored our local Clara City Cub Scouts of 45 boys for several years. This is indeed a real pleasure to offer assistance in our own community.

4-H CLUB

The 4-H way has become a good way for many children. The 4-H's stand for head, heart, hands and health. Rheiderland had one of the first clubs in the area with the late Mrs. Nan G. (Trena) Ammerman and Mrs. Fred M. Aeikens as the leaders. Mrs. Aeikens served as a leader for 15 years. The first club, Rheiderland Winners, lived up to its name and won many State Fair trips and trips to the National Livestock Show. They always exhibited at the County Fair and had the County Trophy. The present Club is the Atomic Club with the leaders being Mrs. Wm. G. Ammerman, Mrs. Ben Davids and Mrs. Egbert Fokken.

Lone Tree has a very active club, the Lone Tree Eagles. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gunter have been leaders for 17 years and won a trip last March to Washington, D.C. to the 4-H Forum. Clarice Gunter won a trip to Mississippi as an exchange 4-H student for a month.

Woods township 4-H clubs are affiliated with the Kandiyohi County group and show at their Fair.

The Crate Clovers Club is led by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hinrichs and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rosendahl. This is their second year and they won a blue ribbon on their window display for 4-H week.

The Chippewa Champs in Stoneham township are an older club. One of their members, Gary Schaller, is with the Peace Corps in Nepal showing them the 4-H way. Diane Christianson won the Radio Speaking Contest in the County in 1963. The present leaders are Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Wahlstrom and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Coulter. In 1962 the Kitchen Band won the "Share the Fun" prize and went to Fergus Falls to perform.

HOMEMAKERS CLUBS

In the fall of 1946 two ladies from Rheiderland township, Mrs. Henry Bohlsen and Mrs. Fred M. Aeikens and Mrs. Art Lindner of Lone Tree township met with three ladies from Montevideo and organized the Homemakers of Chippewa County. The first lesson in 1947 was on remodeling kitchens and was held in the library of the Montevideo Public School. Many lessons have since been held, the first in 1963 was on salad making.

There are today, 1963, 61 clubs in the county with more than 800 members. 17 councilors, one from each township having clubs, meet 6 times a year with the Home Agent, Miss Adela Rydberg at present, at the councilor's home to choose the lessons to be given. There are usually four leader training lessons and a number of open lessons. The councilors also plan the tours, arrange for Achievement Day, the Tea in May, the County Fair booth and their Christmas Party. The tours are one of the highlights of the year, held in June or October. This year 7 bus loads toured Sister Kenny Rehabilitation Center which the group has sponsored more or less since its beginning, Land O'Lakes where they were given dinner, Pillsbury's Kitchens where they were lunched, and Backman's Floral Co. where each lady was presented a rose. The Homemakers have toured many places in the Twin Cities, St. Cloud, Fargo, Sioux Falls and Faribault.

The Homemakers Clubs in our area are: Rheiderland, Mrs. Robert Ammerman councilor, Busy Dozen; Lone Tree, Mrs. Leo Thissen councilor, Busy Mixers and Happy Circle; Woods, Mrs. Cornelius Molenaar councilor, Happy Hustlers, Learn and Do, and Woods Homebuilders; Louriston, Mrs. John F. Asche councilor, Merry Cooks and Sunbeam; Stoneham, Mrs. Roy Roseth councilor, Do Chat and Chew, Kitchen Queens, See and Do; Crate, Mrs. Herman Boike councilor, Crate Center, Happy Hour Homemakers, Ten Pin Club; Clara City, Mrs. Kasjen Klinghagen councilor, Happy Huddle Homemakers, Jolly Jets, Honeymooners and the 39ers.

PRISCILLA CLUB CIVIC PROJECT

Perhaps the civic activities of the Priscilla Club, as a contribution to the welfare of the Clara City Community, do merit space in this historical volume, as the compiler suggests.

The first five years of the Club's life are shrouded in obscurity. It was organized in (about) 1924 as a State Federated Woman's Club with approximately twenty members. The 1929-1930 printed program lists the following members: Mrs. J. K. Bailey Mrs. C. Burges, Mrs. M. S. Carl, Mrs. Peter DeGrote, Mrs. H. T. Foshager, Mrs. W. D. Grashuis, Mrs. Dan C. Jaenisch, Mrs. Henry Koester, Mrs. R. A. Merrill, Mrs. George Schulte, Mrs. M. F. Smith, Mrs. John Stager, Jr., Mrs. H. C. Steffens, Mrs. Frank Stutelberg, Mrs. L. J. Tammen, Mrs. Walter Thein, Mrs. A. Veenstra, Mrs. Carl Veenstra, Mrs. George Wolff, Mrs. J. H. Yock. These, however, are not necessarily all charter members. The officers that year were: President: Mrs. Walter Thein, Vice President: Mrs. M. S. Carl, Secretary: Mrs. R. A. Merrill, Treasurer: Mrs. Dan Jaenisch.

Books and study seems to have been the earliest motivation and, when that interest diminished, membership dwindled until, for a time, it became, more or less, just another "stitch and chatter" club. Gradually, however, it reached out for projects to benefit the community. Two endeavors stand out as "firsts" in this respect: namely: the promotion of the annual Santa Claus Day in mid-December, and the annual Red Cross fund drive. Both date back to sometime during the first five years. The Santa Claus effort has consistently, thru the years, been encouraged and largely financed by the Men's Booster or Commercial Club. The local Red Cross Chairman was for many years one of the Club's more active members, Mrs. R. A. Merrill, and has ever since her resignation, for the past fourteen years, been another active member, Mrs. E. A. Swanson. Club members have cooperated in organizing the annual drives, mapping out individual sections of the village with teams of members do-

Front row: Mrs. Bursack, Mrs. Veenstra, Mrs. Carl, Bessie Meyring, Marian Jacobs. Middle row: Teacher, Mrs. Leipold, Mrs. Arne, Emma Priebe, Alma Fleuter, Teacher, Mrs. Stager, Mrs. Popke. Back row: Teacher, Teacher, Lena Tholen, Teacher.

ing the collecting. The Club, too, since the beginning, has worked closely with the Red Cross Bloodmobile.

In 1937 the biggest project of all was initiated, namely: the starting, building up, and maintaining a public library, as is chronicled in other pages of this book. In this effort financial help was given by the Village Council.

For many years, the Club promoted a skating rink during the winter months and provided supervision of same. When the Village Recreation Committee was organized to plan and supervise youth sports and entertainment, two Club members were selected to serve on that Committee which consisted of representative members from all the various organizations in Clara City, such as The American Legion and its Auxiliary, Lions Club, Commercial Club, etc. Two Priscilla Club members continue to serve on that Committee.

In 1950, at the initiation of the annual Soy Bean Days celebration, the Club was requested to take charge of the Queen activities—organizing the contest, securing judges, providing hospitality for the local candidates and the visiting queens, making banquet arrangements, etc.

When the United Fund Drive Committee was recently organized, the Club responded to the request to send representatives to serve on that Committee, as they still do.

This past summer the Club President, Mrs. E. C. Linden, served on the 75th Jubilee Planning Committee. Other members were also active on Committees or in just plain helping along. In this connection a village beautification project was launched under the direction of Club Immediate-Past President, Mrs. C. A. Fostrom. Other women's organizations—Homemaker's Clubs, Girl Scouts and their leaders, etc.—were invited to assist in planting flowers, specializing in petunias, in all available plots and caring for them through the summer. Sidewalk receptacles were planted, and pots of petunias were set on light or telephone poles, three pots to each pole. Business men were asked to cooperate in this project financially and by planting window boxes wherever possible. Response from everyone was splendid and results were indeed gratifying. This, too, holds promise of becoming another continuing project.

EIBE THOLEN PIONEER FAMILY

In 1883 Eibe and Wilhelmina (Gerdes) Tholen immigrated from Germany to Golden, Illinois, where in 1888 they became American citizens. In 1892 they, together with their four children, emigrated from Golden to Clara City, Minnesota, where Mr. Tholen planned to pursue his carpenter trade. There was plenty of work to be had but the rented house in which they lived was soon sold and, unable to find another available, they decided to return to Golden.

Mr. and Mrs. Eibe Tholen

In 1895 they again moved to Clara City where they took up residence in a "land company" house a mile or so northwest of the townsite. The house still stands in Stoneham Township. Here Mr. Tholen plied his trade and in 1904 he built the Tholen family home in Clara City. The family consisted of three boys and one girl; viz, Claus, Eleanor, George and Albert. As the boys grew up they worked with their father who designed, contracted and built many of the older homes in Clara City. He also played an important role in building the first Immanuel Lutheran Church building. He and his family were among the earliest members of that congregation. He was a meticulous workman and, until the very end of his life in 1960, at age 102, he pointed with pride to the buildings he had constructed. He also retained a keen interest in every new construction project.

In 1958 which was both his own and his State's Centennial year, he was among one hundred forty pioneers, men and women of ninety years and over, who were given special recognition on Statehood Day, May 11, at the State Capitol. His own birthday on April 16 most nearly coincided of all those present with the State Centennial date. Each pioneer was awarded a Centennial Pioneer Certificate by Governor Freeman in a special ceremony in the Capitol rotunda. Clara City's popular quartette, the Cadettes, composed of LaDonna Clements, Barbara Lange, Ann Schjeldahl and Carol Frikke sang at this Statehood Day ceremony, and was called the Centennial Quartette. Mr. Tholen had previously been honored on his Centennial date with receptions at home, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, by his fellow-townsmen in the Soy Bean Days parade and at the Chippewa County Minnesota Centennial Pageant in Montevideo.

Mrs. Tholen, frail in health for years, passed away in 1928, followed in death by Claus in 1943.

In 1937 Mr. Tholen remarried, his second wife being Hinrika Miller. She is now 97 years old, probably the eldest in our city since the death in September of Mrs. Enno Christians, our most recent centennarian.

Clara City is proud to be the home of many senior citizens who have had a hand in making our area what it is today. The couple who take the honors are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Peterson with Mr. and Mrs. Otto Peiper probably second in line, as eldest. Some others are Mrs. Seibe Hagemeyer, Mrs. A. E. Prekker, Mrs. Mike Klassen, Mrs. Alice Donner, Mrs. Angelus Heins, Mrs. Tebbe Deikman, Jetta Behrends, Mrs. John Roskens, Ben Doesken and his sisters, Mrs. Susie Bauman and Mrs. Dena Behrends.

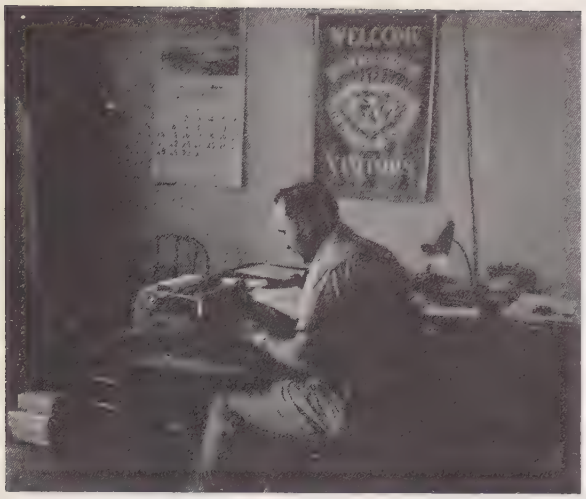
As we paused to celebrate 75 years of taming the virgin soil, we wish that those who came here first might see what has come of their pioneering. May those who follow continue in the same spirit and reap the same rewards:

Here is how we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Clara City Community!

Many business places had their display windows full of mementoes of the past for a couple weeks ahead of the celebration. Monday, July 8, saw the arrival of the Al Brown Carnival. That evening there was a Teen-agers Sock Hop at the public school with "The Defiants" playing and Hal Murray the popular KDWB Disc Jockey as MC. Steve Henslin and DeWayne Smith play with "The Defiants." Downtown from 9 to midnite the business places put on a special sale, the Diamond Jubilee Midnite Madness with clerks either in nighttime or Jubilee attire.

The Kiddie Parade at 7 p.m. was the big event on Tuesday, followed by a big stage show at the local ball park.

Wednesday all business closed at 2 so that everyone might participate in the activities. The Pioneer



—Photo Courtesy of Clara City Herald

Clara City Herald Office

Show in the afternoon included the judging of Beards and the Old Fashioned Dress Contest. Films of the 50th Anniversary taken by the Koch family and presented to Clara City by Mrs. Florence H. Koch were shown in the DeGrote Building several times.

The Alumni of the Clara City Public School met in a social way from 3 until the smorgasgord started at 5.

The Big Parade began at 7:30 at Emil Kluver's corner and continued to the school to disband. Three loudspeaker units helped give information along the route. It was estimated that over 8000 people viewed it. And what a splendid climax for the celebration!

A Jubilee Square Dance Exhibition was put on by the local teen-agers and school children coached by Cliff and Carrie Summerfield. The Queen coronation took place at the local ball park with Jean Meyer being crowned by Sandra Tammen. Kathie Koenen and Jana Gunter were the Princesses. A gigantic fireworks display climaxed the evening and brought to a close Clara City's Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

Fifty years ago there was a Business Men's Club which took charge of the Silver Anniversary of Clara City. From time to time since then there have been various such organizations which evidently served their purpose for a time and then died out. The present Clara City Civic and Commerce Club was activated about five years ago and we must give them due credit for the many community events they have fostered which we enjoy year after year. Soy Bean Days originated back in 1950 when the bean was fairly new here. It started as sort of a bean promotion and recognition day with beans displayed and competing for prizes and speakers on the subject. The bean became common, but the celebration became an annual event to which we all look forward. This Diamond Jubilee Celebration proved to be a complete success. They even enlisted the cooperation of the weather man! To Bob Cudd president, John Ridler Jr. vice president and Jim Brown secretary-treasurer and the business men members we give our sincere thanks for an unforgetable historical milestone celebration. It is this type of enthusiastic leadership from our business men that has advanced our community these 75 years to make it the thriving place it is today.

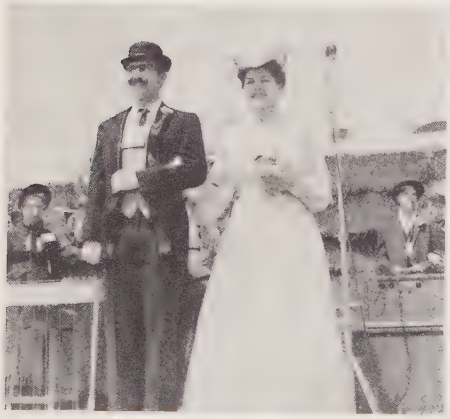
RESUME CONCLUSION

This has certainly been a Jubilee Year! The soybean harvest has been the best in years. The corn crop has been a bountiful one. The small grain crops were not so generous but the acreage is much less than in former years. The sugar beet harvest has been the largest that this area has ever known. The beet stockpile west of town is said to be the largest in the United States.

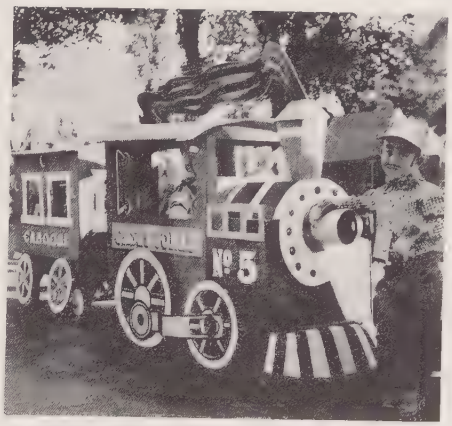
Lawns have been a beautiful carpet of green all summer and into the fall. I wonder how many years in the past, and in the future, lawn mowers were used and will be used to clip the grass as late as November 15th as was necessary this year! Rosebuds were picked November 16th and many garden annuals and perennials are still in bloom as we conclude our chapter. Yes, the good Lord has blessed our community and we should sing with the psalmist David, "We give thanks to Thee, O God; we give thanks!"

The Beard Club

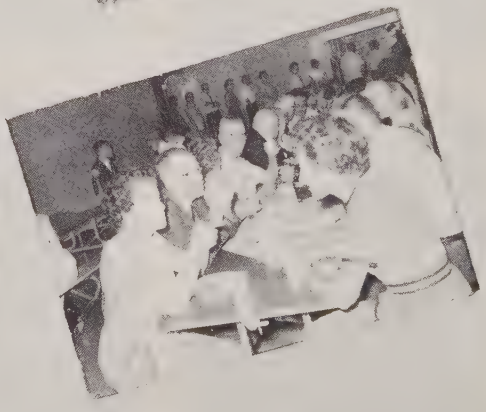
JUBILEE DAYS



JUBILEE DAYS



ALUMNI GET·TOGETHER



Clara City Motel

The Clara City Civic and Commerce Club wishes to thank the advertisers for their support in publication of this book.

The business of furnishing board and room started in the Swiers building in Clara City. It later became known as the Theiling Hotel. Then there was the Commercial Hotel. But as time changed other things, it also made inroads on this business. There came a time when there was no place to find a bed in town unless someone like Mrs. Dan Jaenisch had a room. Now motels have sprung up to furnish convenience to the motoring public. Clara City's newest is located south of town on Highway 7 at the junction with Highway 23. This newly constructed modern Clara City Motel was built by the owners, John and Hilda Caspers in the summer of 1959.

Heins Garage

The garage business that has developed into the present Heins garage was begun by Charles Schlagel and Elmer Foote in 1911. It was then located in the old building which has been replaced by the Tammen building in which Dick Wearda has his implement business now. In 1919 Adolph Otto bought out the interest of Elmer Foote who moved to Washington. This firm, Schlagel and Otto, continued in the present location until the spring of 1927 when it was sold to George Kleene and John Heins. That same fall, Siebolt Kleene took over his brother George's interest. In 1934 an addition was built to the original building that doubled its size. The old part of the building is used as shop and office and the new part for storage. The firm of Kleene and Heins was ended in the fall of 1940 by the death of Si Kleene from a heart attack. Since that time the business has been conducted by John Heins as Heins Garage.

The first creamery in Clara City was located in what is now the Luke Condon home. In 1911 Lammert Gerdes bought the building and remodeled it for his home when he moved in from the farm.

Jacob Steffens in cream buying station

There were a number of cream buying stations which bought cream and shipped it by rail to other towns where there were creameries. The Farmers Co-Operative Creamery was organized in 1919 and is now the largest creamery in the county. The first Board of Directors were Henry Sechler, Pres.; Tom Gunter, Sec.; Otto Peiper, Treas,; Bert Scheltens, Fred Grussing, A. C. Rhode, Nick Marso. The present Board are Herbert Peiper, Pres.; Herman Tebben, Sec. and Treas.; Cordie Dannen, Vice Pres.; Egbert Andresen, Harm Duitsman, Arthur Deiken, Chester Wolff. Some of the earlier managers are not recorded, the last four are Mr. Tuman, Henry Koester, George Clements and Rance Slater. So far in 1962 the creamery has bought 15,996,669 lbs. of milk where as in the early days only cream was purchased. 774,506 lbs. of butter have been make up to press time in 1963.

Farmers Cooperative Creamery

Brix Drug Store

The Drug business started when Phil Henk came to Clara City to be the pharmacist for that department of the Clara City Mercantile Co. He is now living in Waverly, Minn. Mr. Charles Wulling also worked for Mercantile, for 15 years, before starting his own drug store. In 1933 he opened the first privately owned drug store in the village in the north corner of the DeGrote building. Another man who worked for Mercantile a while, Mr. Clair Whiting, opened his own store in the location where John Ertle's shoe shop now is, in the mid 40's. He became ill and his store was closed after a few years. The Wullings bought the corner diagonally across from their store and built a fine new building into which they moved their business in May, 1946. Mr. Wulling died Nov. 15, 1947. Mrs. Wulling carried on with the help of hired pharmacists until in April 1955 when she sold the business to Mr. Robert Brix. Bob did a major remodeling job on the store in 1960 so we now have as fine a drug store as you will see any place.

In 1891 two young sons, Emil and Julius Yock, of a Renville farmer decided that a store in Clara City would hold a good future for them. Their building was built between seeding and harvest time, where the present Gamble Store is located. After harvest the firm of Yock Brothers started operating. A few years later a wing was added to the west side of the building. The building and business was destroyed by the large Clara City fire in June 1909.

Emil Yock built the present Gamble building and Conrad Klinghagen and he operated the store as partners. Shortly after that Emil Yock traded the building and his share of the partnership with Jacob Steffens for the farm just north of Clara City, which the Yock family still owns. A couple of years later Emil Yock built the fifty-foot main section of the present Big V Store, and Julius Yock rejoined him in the firm of Yock Brothers again. After a time Julius Yock purchased a store in Wisconsin and Emil Yock continued the business.

Martin Weers became a partner and manager of the store then known as the Golden Rule. Mr. Weers later returned to operating his own store and Emil Yock continued this store, assisted by his sons, and it was then known as E. E. Yock and Sons. William J. Yock was manager until he decided to take up dentistry, then Gordon Yock managed the same until E. E. Yock sold out in 1930, and it again became Yock Brothers for the third time, with a sister Florence Bonde also a partner. She managed the dry goods department for many years.

Yocks Store, 1891

John Lepler, Jr. was a partner for a few years, Martin Meyer purchasing his interest in 1939.

The firm later became known as Yock and Meyer Department Store, during which time the former Knipp Blacksmith Shop area was added to the store.

Gordon Yock withdrew from being an active partner and Martin Meyer became the manager, assisted by Lowell Wolff, who became a partner shortly thereafter. A few years ago Martin Meyer withdrew as an active partner and Lowell Wolff has been the managing partner since. The name of the store was changed to "The Big V Department Store."

Big V Store

The Variety Supply Company was formed in 1936 and for the first three years operated as a Wagon Jobber, peddling notions to retail stores in this area. In 1939 the firm was bought out by six stores in this area and was established as a buying headquarters for them. The first years it operated out of the basement of the Yock and Meyer Department Store, Gordon Yock was the manager of the firm. Many additional stores were served by the firm and soon additional space was necessary. A 45x50 foot building was constructed just across the street from the store, which is the west portion of that present building. As additional space was required, additions were built.

One of the departments was foods, and in 1949 this department was made a separate corporation under the name of Variety Foods and was managed by Philip Stager. This firm erected the building south of the track. As that firm grew additional space was needed and it built a new warehouse east of town and the parent firm, Variety Supply Company, took over its building. The store building

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